

Our CLASS OF '83 are enjoying their first real break before next year's finals and the hunt for jobs. We interview the survivors as they draw breath for the last lap (pages 10 and 11)



The end of the last war was clouded by the A-bombing of Japanese cities, an event that cast a shadow over a whole generation. Paul Flather meets ANTHONY KENNY, one of our most prolific academic writers, whose Catholicism was forced to come to terms with the spectre of nuclear war (page 12)

Vaughan Grylls found school-days in Skegness back in 1957 bracing enough but was teaching in America in the 1980s as relaxing as he'd expected? Looking back, he contends with popularity, assessment and the all-important PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS (page 15)

ARTS: Niki de Saint Phalle's Tarot Cards... David Daiches reviews Stevenson on the radio... Scottish colourist Samuel Peploe on show at Edinburgh (page 16)

Where IGNORANCE is bliss... Tony Tanner reviews Andrew Martin's study of the relationship in culture between ignorance and knowledge, ranging from the biblical Eden to the science fiction of the 19th century (page 17)

|                                   |       |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Home news                         | 1-7   |
| Patrick Nuttgens                  | 2     |
| Letters to the editor             | 2     |
| Don's Diary (Aidan Foster-Carter) | 4     |
| Antithesis                        | 5     |
| Party Line (Jack Straw)           | 6     |
| Union View (AUT)                  | 7     |
| Overseas news                     | 8-9   |
| Articles                          | 10-15 |
| Column (Ernest Boyer)             | 14    |
| Arts                              | 16    |
| Books                             | 17-21 |
| Noticeboard                       | 22    |
| Classified advertising            | 23-27 |



The birth of the small family  
The UGC and research  
J. D. Y. Peel on anthropology and history

Published by Times Newspapers Ltd., P.O. Box 7, 200, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ, England. Printed by the Times Newspapers Ltd., 200, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ, England. Telephone 01-253 3000. Registered at the Post Office as a newspaper.

HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPLEMENT  
Priory House, St John's Lane, London EC1M 4BX. Telephone 01-253 3000

An Essay on Education I

## Youth is a foreign country

This four-part essay, which will fill this space during August, is about education - not universities and polytechnics but schools. Its territory will be the entire apparatus of government institutions, the diversity of values and practices, the accumulation of past traditions and the assembly of future hopes that make up British education a century or more after the 1870 Act, half a century or less after the postwar extension of compulsory education to secondary schools, and almost exactly a quarter of a century after the progressive school reforms of the 1960s and the great expansion of higher and further education that was their contemporary.

This essay is informed by two perspectives that may also help to explain its intentions. The first is that higher education sits on top of but at the same time apart from schools and colleges. In one sense higher education has an imperial relationship with the rest of education; it attracts the brightest pupils from schools and colleges and so deeply influences their structure and practice; and it both judges and articulates the values that are expressed through the wider education system.

But in another sense, higher education is isolationist. Maybe its three-fold expansion since 1960 has increased this sense of apartness from the schools. Once university and school-teachers were quite close; now they inhabit more distant professional worlds. In the eyes of many higher education has become a different kind of enterprise from the education system in which it is rooted. Advancing the frontier of knowledge and serving intellectual and industrial culture have tended to dominate and even overpower the simpler and older business of teaching.

The second perspective is that education, school education, is an absolutely fundamental process within British society which higher education for all the advances of recent years has not yet become (as it probably has in the United States). It is not simply that education is a mass political arena in which votes, maybe millions of them, are won and lost. It is that it holds up a mirror to our society and ourselves that offers an undistorted image of our beliefs and hopes, our ambitions and fears. The mirror that higher education holds up is different - more brilliant perhaps but also more oblique and selective. Education addresses the whole nation; higher education only its most privileged and cerebral part.

So what is happening in schools, with their millions of pupils, shapes the possibilities in higher education, with its hundreds of thousands of students. This is true not only in an obvious and direct sense, such as the number of school leavers with good A levels or the pattern of subject specialization in schools. It is true also in a less direct but more penetrating sense because schools help to shape the political, social and cultural environment to which higher education is subject. However imperfect our democracy, numbers count and even the most influential elites must pay attention to this mass arithmetic. Universities are certainly the most powerful single institutions in British education, but they are overpowered by the cumulative influence of our 30,000 schools.

That at any rate is the justification for this essay. Its theme this week is the young people of Britain, and their high-profile but private culture. Youth too can be a foreign country. Next week the subjects will be the institutions in which education is provided, those 30,000 schools, and those who do the educating, principally the teachers, but also that long tail of ministers, civil servants, local authority officers, inspectors and the rest. On August 16 the focus will be on the process itself - what is taught, why and how. Finally on August 23 an attempt will be made to explore the values and traditions embodied in our modern system of

Young people live in an all-consuming present. Unlike the older and the middle-aged they have no lengthy personal memories on which to draw; their integrity has to be constructed out of contemporary sensation. In a society already oppressed by the instant and the immediate, their oppression is particularly intense.

Nor is this inevitable shortage of personal memories compensated for by shared family memories. The structure of family life, the pattern of work, the centrifugal quality of leisure and culture mean that in modern Britain different generations even within happily settled families live quite separate lives. Working parents, divorce, single-parent families, the exclusion of grandparents, the decline of authority and the rise of "parenting", the headlong turnover of teenage culture - all these diverse phenomena inhibit communication across generations.

Nor are the lack of deep personal memories among the young and the unreliable transmission of family memories across generations compensated for by a rich social memory. Britain may be dotted with beautiful cathedrals, quiet country houses, deserted castles, many of them crowded with summer visitors. But this has become an ahistorical society. The considerable weight of our traditions is unacknowledged except as leisure, as commerce and sometimes as politics (whether in the Falklands War or the miners' strike).

Of course there is a great difference here between consciousness and institutions. At the level of the former the power of the present is unchallenged; our history has been reduced to the slumbering giant of our national subconscious. But in our institutions there seems to be too much history. We are ruled by a Parliament that continues to be mesmerized by its Victorian heyday. We join trade unions that still live off the moral capital of working-class solidarity accumulated in the industrial revolution. We work for companies dominated by an old-fashioned mercantilist rather than modern productive ethos. And we are served by, or subject to, a public administration that is paternalist and amateur.

For the young this is confusing. They are thoroughly modern and live in a society obsessed by the instant and the immediate. Yet this society is dominated by institutions that seem to owe too much rather than too little to the past. Maybe this awkward tension between a one-dimensional present and an unyielding past helps to explain why so many of our institutions are under-performing. They find it difficult to engage the support of, or even properly understood by, the new generations which they have to mould and serve. They cannot easily be adapted to the volatility of each new generation's particular culture.

Yet the increasingly incestuous quality of each generation's unique experience is a remarkable feature of 20th-century culture. Every decade since the Great War has carried its own distinguishing marks. The hedonism of the booming 1920s, that uneasy attempt to reach pre-war solidity; the stoicism of the interwar decade of the 1930s when the pride of Victorian times came tumbling down; the high seriousness of the 1940s created by a just war against evil enemies and an equally just struggle for social justice; the *enriched-voiced* 1950s when affluence and cold war came to Britain; the "swinging" 1960s of high hopes and high rise; the pendulum years of the 1970s when the postwar social democratic consensus first began to falter; now the troubled 1980s and in only five years the 1990s.

It has become a commonplace to argue that young people are influenced more by their parents than their parents, by present opportunities than by tradition. Probably the dynamic of

ate too much continuity or allow too many backward regrets. Maybe these succeeding generations have acted as peer groups on the large scale. Certainly the dominant culture of each has been more powerful and exclusive than of the one before. What in the early part of the century could be characterized only tentatively as "the spirit of the age", from which there were many exceptions and exclusions, has become in our late 20th-century age of instant taste and mass communication something more oppressive, a set of attitudes and view of the world that are difficult to escape.

So young people in Britain in the 1980s live in a sometimes suffocating present. Their elders too often live in one-dimensional "presents", only different ones; their parents probably have been formed by the "present" of the 1960s, while the people who run Britain look back to an even more distant "present", probably that of the high-minded 1940s and now perhaps the brittle materialistic 1950s. Yet the difficulties that young people face go beyond this confusion of "presents" and the problems of translation it creates; there is a more intense "present", because it is the real one and because the pressures of peer-group orthodoxy are stronger and the countervailing pressure of non-peer authority weaker than ever before.

What is their present? What is the generational peer-group pressure of the 1980s, the persuasive culture of this decade? Two dominant characteristics need to be emphasized. First, the young are growing up in an ageing society, something which no generation has experienced in Britain for at least 50 years. Second, the threat of nuclear war, the prospect of mass unemployment and other onerous late 20th-century Britain mean that young people cannot find in hope for the future a compensation for their dissatisfaction with the present and ignorance of the past.

The first will have an incalculable influence over the way young people regard their world. There is an almost unique experience; in pre-industrial society high mortality ensured the youth of the population while in industrial society high fertility more than made up for longer life spans. But in recent years that century-old pattern has been broken. The future will no longer belong so triumphantly to the young. Their relegation will have mixed results; easier to find a university place in the 1990s perhaps but maybe at the cost of a disrupted secondary education in the 1980s as schools are merged and closed to cope with falling rolls, a reduced social security burden now that SERPS is to be abolished but a less generous pension in mid-21st-century retirement.

Young people are likely to be affected by two great changes in the shape of society that will flow from this population shift. First, a far-reaching shift of resources within the welfare state has already begun in a largely unplanned and involuntary way. Its most significant components are redistribution from education and housing to health and social security (despite the fate of SERPS), offers a concrete symbol of what is happening; the welfare state is now less concerned with building the infrastructure of the future than maintaining the fabric of the present. That may have profound political consequences. A welfare state that maintains the present rather than builds the future is a much less exciting prospect; it may be a less radical enterprise in the eyes of reformers and a less deserving cause in the eyes of a mass electorate.

This leads to the second change that will flow from an ageing society. The modern state has been developed over the past two centuries when society was young. Its growth has depended on the need to satisfy the demand of this youthful population for a better future. Its forward horizon has ex-

it accumulated - in industrial development, improved public administration, the growth of a welfare state.

But what will happen when society's as much retrospective as prospective in its orientation, when its forward horizon shrinks to not much more than a decade, when stability and even optimism take over from growth? What will happen to the institutions designed to satisfy the old imperatives? What will it be like to be young in such a society? The practical difficulties of adjustment will be great but the psychological ones greater. It is difficult to believe that there will not be a rise in the level of public pessimism, linked maybe to a private gloom among adults. But among the young it is felt both inside and outside the DES that the time has come to crack down on confidence tricksters who can currently trade unchecked. Mr David Stafford, an assistant secretary at the DES, said there was now a good case for a law to combat fraud specifically in the educational context.

The Fraud Squad has added weight to this argument and has become actively involved in the campaign for legislation. Officers have become increasingly frustrated because of their inability to prosecute degree salesmen under existing laws. As a result many recent connected careers on which they have been worth while lives, and even the fortunate mostly found decent. Today the best and the brightest cannot risk those dreams out of the creativity and hope arise; the mass of young people has been led to think in terms of jobs rather than careers; and the less fortunate, being formed into a frightening class, their narrow world braced with worst disillusionism and heroism.

Other signs of the drive to isolate and disengage work from its value. For although in the 1980s many have become more essentially materialistic in sense they have also become less important in a more subtle cultural sense.

A second strategy is for the young to refuse to accept that the hopefulness which previous generations had been forced to accept is a more cynical adult world. A paradoxical result may be to make the young appear old-fashioned, conservative and romantic. They may refuse to accept that "the party" is in the welfare state; that a balance of terror has become a balance of terror; that uncompetitive factories may be closed and redundant communities dispersed. Maybe CND (not all under the bed) and the pop world reaction to famine in Africa (not all "Saint" Bob Geldof) demonstrate simple but stubborn responses by the young to the realpolitik cynicism of the old.

Either, or both, are possible, the implosion of ambition or the rejection of the diminished world accepted by their elders. It is possible that a third strategy will prevail, that the young will enthusiastically espouse the brave new world of IT, not simply as an instrument of work and play but in the sincere belief that new technology can produce a new technocratic morality. But that seems unlikely. As Dr Johnson wrote: "Young men have more virtue than old men; they have more generous sentiments in every respect."

Peter Scott

# The Times Higher Education Supplement

August 9, 1985 No 666 Price 65p

## Purge of bogus degrees

by Adriana Caudrey

The Government may legislate to stamp out the trade in bogus degrees and diplomas. Senior civil servants at the Department of Education and Science with special responsibility for monitoring academic fraud have been instructed to examine the feasibility of detailed proposals for legislation recently submitted to Mr Peter Brooke, under secretary for higher education.

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Peter Scott

## University pay talks break down

by David Jobbins

University teachers' pay talks collapsed this week when hard-pressed vice chancellors rejected a union plan for a phased deal and stuck firmly to their initial offer of 4 per cent.

The Association of University Teachers, which has already rejected 4 per cent, had hoped that both the provisional agreement for polytechnic and college lecturers, and the top salaries review body report would create a climate conducive to a settlement. It suggested phasing as one way in which pay levels could be increased without overtaxing what it concedes are tightly stretched resources.

But while expressing sympathy with their case on erosion the vice-chancellors refused. A senior official of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals said: "This would have committed us to agreeing to money next year which we do not have and when we do not know what the future holds. We are in a unique position in the public service so far as funding is concerned and cannot switch resources."

AUT general secretary Ms Diana Warwick said:

"There may be no lack of integrity on the other side, but there is an appalling shortage of collective memory. Angry AUT members will recall 1974/75 and 1979/80 when university teachers unjustly lost out on their pay."

The deadlock means that there can be no agreement in time to beat an autumn deadline after which the employers will have to pay higher national insurance contributions for most university teachers.

The significance of the deadline arises from the Budget announcement that the ceiling on employers' contributions for employees earning more than £13,780 was to be removed. This is effective from October 6 and the vice chancellors have been advised that unless a settlement is reached by then not only salaries from that date but the back pay from April 1 will be liable for the higher contribution.

They calculate that the cost in extra contributions could be as high as £1.5 million and the CVCP is to advise universities later this month to increase the salaries of all groups of staff who have yet to settle by up to 4 per cent on account to remove the risk of the back pay being affected.

"It would be nonsense to let £1.5 millions go just like that," an official said.

Management sources were at pains to point out that this would not be an interim payment but protective action to safeguard university resources from unnecessary loss.

Estimates of the size of the saving vary - the AUT believes it is about £800,000 and despite reservations about the creation of a precedent accepts it is a sensible step. Manchester University's council has already authorized vice chancellor Professor Mark Richmond to add 3 per cent if no agreement has been reached by September.

There was no demand during this week's meeting of Committee A for the independent chairman, Sir Alexander Johnston, to make a ruling on the award - the equivalent of arbitration. The employers who have not shifted significantly in negotiations, have previously suggested this would provide the way out of the deadlock.

But the AUT has consistently argued there is scope for further negotiation.



A vintage choice - Dr John Brown, newly-appointed head of Lancashire Polytechnic's combined studies programme and vintage car collector, has to pick from no less than five meticulously-kept vehicles for his daily drive to work. He will be running one of the polytechnic's most flexible courses, which enables about 200 new students a year to choose from a wide range of arts and science subjects.

## NERC faces 'on the cheap' survey row

by Jon Turney  
Science Correspondent

The Natural Environment Research Council is accused of trying to get geological surveying done on the cheap by university scientists, who are being invited to tender for work normally done by the British Geological Survey.

The new row comes on top of a series of recent criticisms of the council's treatment of the earth sciences - which will shortly lead to a joint inquiry into geological surveying in Britain by the NERC and the Advisory Board for the Research Councils. The BGS is by far the largest NERC institute, with an annual budget of over £25 million a year, and has recently been short of funds for strategic geological surveying of the British Isles - one of its prime functions.

The NERC wrote to all university geology departments in June inviting tenders for basic geological survey work. The letter said the council considered mapping work could be done using research students or research assistants, and did not envisage meeting full economic costs from NERC funds as the dual support system relies on a significant input of a University Grants Committee funds for university research.

Professor Michael Audley-Charles of University College, London, chairman of the committee of heads of university geology departments, said this week the scheme was obviously designed to do the work on the cheap. He felt strategic mapping should be handled by the professional staff of the BGS, not by university research assistants.

Other geologists have already written to the council attacking the scheme. Professor Michael Russell, head of the geology department at the University of Strathclyde, has written saying the areas of Britain as yet unmapped require considerable experience in their interpretation and do not offer problems suitable for postgraduate theses.

However, Professor John Murray of Exeter University said his department would be bidding for new contracts, and had seen a number of research students produce good theses based on earlier work for the BGS.

Staff at the BGS headquarters in Nottingham say the Exeter work is more specialised than the basic mapping now envisaged, and they claim that survey maps produced in France using university staff are of poor quality.

International comparisons of geological mapping will figure prominently on the agenda of the forthcoming

## NUS backs South African boycott

Universities and colleges in Britain face a campaign for an academic boycott of South Africa in the early weeks of the new academic year. Inquiries by *The Times* have shown it is possible to buy an "off-the-peg" degree for £300.

Mr Stafford said: "There was a purge three or four years ago, and the problem lay dormant. Now it seems to have surfaced again." Any new legislation should cover the whole spectrum of unrecognized institutions, from those which sell paper qualifications for no work, to those which offer qualifications of some value, "but not as great a value as they pretend", he said.

He warned that it might be foolish to legislate only against those selling bogus degrees, because of the risk that they would then trade in diplomas instead. However, it would be easier to outlaw the trade in degrees, because these may only be issued by an institution which has a Royal Charter. Universities are granted these by the Privy Council and polytechnics receive them through the Council for National Academic Awards.

Mr Stafford said that although there was a need to create an all-encompassing legislation, there was a risk that this would stifle reputable innovations in the private sector. And sanctions introduced in this country would not bite overseas where many of the degree mills advertise and draw customers.

The DES did not want to take on extra work. "We would like to introduce legislation which would be effective without involving us in a huge monitoring exercise."

The summer vacation. The NUS executive has decided in principle to place high priority on the campaign and a day of action has been agreed for October 24.

NUS and the AAM share the aim of restoring South Africa to the centre of the student political stage. AAM's executive secretary Mr Mike Terry said: "We intend to bring it back to the top of the student union agenda."

The AAM wants to see the notion of an academic boycott written into the policies of universities and colleges, following the pattern adopted by a number of universities in Europe.

Teachers have adopted a boycott of academic appointments since 1980 and its members on senates and courts might be expected to support the campaign.

It was an alliance between NUS and AAM which led to the last mass drive for disinvestment in the 1970s. A

number of universities, including Bath and Warwick, disposed of all their South African holdings, while several others sold shares in major investors but did not adopt a total disinvestment policy. They and another group of institutions such as Durham which refused to sell, are to be the main targets of the renewed campaign.

A number of companies are said to be using the milk round to recruit graduates for employment in South Africa and institutions may be pressurized to follow Sheffield University's example and refuse careers facilities for South African recruitment.

The AUT has been supporting demands for the Science and Engineering Research Council to end its connection with a telescope installation near Cape Town. Earlier this year the SERC decided to suspend the arrangement under which it paid £330,000 a year for 35 per cent of the observation time.



Research funding. 16

## Art prepares for 20% cuts

by John O'Leary

Far-reaching changes have been proposed for the teaching of art in polytechnics and colleges in anticipation of cuts of up to 20 per cent in student numbers.

The art and design group of the National Advisory Body has issued a discussion document which warns that, unless the Government increases its support for public sector higher education, a number of courses will close as a result of the NAB's planning exercise for 1987/88. Although design courses

under art or the performing arts will face 20 per cent cuts on current assumptions.

The group put the case for the structure and balance of art provision to be broadened. "This proposition implies that provision within the art programme should offer, in addition to specialist courses in fine art, courses providing appropriate study and practice and potential artists/craftsperson, as well as more general courses for those seeking a broad understanding of the visual and applied arts," the report says.



# letters to the editor

## Bias against business

Sir, - I was interested by your editorial (THES, July 26) on anti-business bias in higher education, and pleased you devote so much space to it.

A study which I have undertaken (to be published shortly as "Seeds of business") demonstrates pretty conclusively that negative prejudice against business is thriving at least in one area of education.

Analysis of O level, A level and introductory degree level course materials, examination papers, and text-books reveals general neglect of and antipathy towards enterprise, industry, sales, and advertising. The attitudes of thousands of students of sociology (including most teachers in training) are hardly likely to be shifted in favour of wealth creation in any sense by this material.

As far as I know, there is no similar study of history, philosophy, English,

or others of the humanities disciplines.

I venture to speculate that the case is not much better than in sociology.

As for economics, when 364 senior members of the discipline publicly advertise their studied indifference to economic realities, what need is there for research into the ideas they convey to their students?

The topic is quite as important as you judged - indeed it may well be crucial to Britain's success and even survival. We simply cannot afford to continue inculcating in young people this philistine aversion to the marketplace. It will not produce socialism - just poverty.

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID MARLAND,  
Brunel University.

Sir, - It seems a pity that your leading article on supposed "anti-business snobbery" in higher education (THES,

July 26) chose to exemplify rather than illuminate the topic. For example, you write: "(The complaint) is that higher education does not acknowledge its responsibility to proselytize for the values of 'wealth creation' in private profit as the only genuine source of national wealth."

Self-indulgent writing of this nature, which substitutes facile caricature for serious exploration of an opposing view, is trivially easy to generate - and to answer in kind - but neither activity contributes anything to the resolution of disagreement. I am sure that there are serious questions at issue here, but your article unfortunately failed to throw light on them.

Yours faithfully,  
TOM CORLETT,  
25 Nower Hill,  
Pinner, Middlesex.

## Defence research

Sir, - Your editorial applauding the proposal of the Ministry of Defence to invest in research in British universities (THES, July 19) has readachened a conference in the US on increased US military funding of research which may lead to a generation of chemical and biological weapons runs only just below the surface. What is shocking is not so much the MoD's intentions but the somewhat apocryphal enthusiasm for them. You don't explore the reasons why this sudden act of generosity would not seem unduly fettered.

(a) Britain spends a higher proportion of its science and technology budget (over 50 per cent) on military research than any other industrial nation except the US (compare France's 35 per cent or West Germany's under 12, Japan's under 5 per cent).

(b) This gross imbalance, at a time of starvation of funds for civil science, has caused widespread concern not only among scientists, as witness the recent House of Commons debate on science, but also among the general public.

Two per cent of military research funds would be to transform the outlook of civil science. But clearly what we were hoping for was a transfer to research councils or even the University Grants Committee. Doing it this way the MoD plans, by earmarking funds for projects which interest it, to produce the reverse of the effect Government's critics were seeking.

You allude in your editorial to dangers of this move, if only to dismiss them. The creation of a military industrial research complex; the development of programmes of research and the need for security clearance for university researchers; even if they only extend current trends, cannot be so lightly dismissed, by a reference to "justified defence" and "patriotic duty". It is not need opening up to critical public scrutiny and that their closed nature probably encourages mediocre science and technology even in terms of the MoD's own mission.

"Justification" and "patriotism" are bit too reminiscent of past legions for research ranging from increased toxicity of biological weapons through making more sticky napalm to the nuclear and "star wars" programmes. Not everyone would agree that such research is either justified or in the interests of the people of Britain.

Making the MoD paymaster for yet more of Britain's science is not a way to preserve universities as places which offer space for critical thought. Rather it is likely to serve, as in the US, to stop the mouths of critical scientists will be wonderfully salutary to our intellectual classes.

Until now, THESE has stood firm in defence of university independence. We deserve better of you than capitulation to the MoD's pithy £10 million.

Yours faithfully,  
STEVEN ROSE,  
Brewster Academy,  
Wolfeboro,  
New Hampshire,  
USA.

## Library spending levels maintained

by Carolyn Dempster

In the face of inflationary price rises and threats of funding cuts, the majority of UK universities managed to maintain or increase library expenditure from 1981 to 1984.

Statistics depicting the marginal step up in spending are contained in the most recent survey conducted by the Standing Conference of National and University Libraries among 71 university or college libraries.

They show that while library expenditure, expressed as a percentage of total university expenditure, fell from 4.5 per cent to 4.2 per cent over the three-year period, the reductions occurred mainly in smaller universities and London university libraries.

SCONUL chairman and Aberdeen University librarian Mr I. M. Smethurst is quick to point out, though, that in real terms the figures mask the true situation. "There has been a real effort by individual universities to compensate for increasing costs, but most libraries have had to cut back their serial subscriptions and have been forced to make further cuts to keep within their purchasing budgets," he said.

In May this year, Aberdeen introduced a £35,000 cut in periodicals and serials, "to bring us back on to an even keel," said Mr Smethurst.

The SCONUL tables also highlight

how libraries have used their grants to protect acquisitions and have attempted to balance staff losses with the introduction of new technology, thereby providing a better service.

But with imminent cuts in government funding, the situation is bound to worsen, forcing libraries into cuts to the detriment of both teaching and research, the survey emphasizes. "Cuts in university funding in real terms leading to further cuts in library funding in real terms cannot but harm the development of a library service."

The costly introduction of new technology coupled with maintenance, binding and inter-library loan expenses pushed up operating costs by £3 per student in the 1983/84 academic year. Without the investment in technology and improved services, professional staff costs would undoubtedly have been much higher, concludes the SCONUL report.

London University librarian Mr V. Parry expects reductions on much the same scale in the areas of staffing resources, acquisitions, and conservation over the next five years as the 2 per cent per year research funding cuts take effect.

"I'm surprised the SCONUL statistics showed an increase in university library expenditure, because it was my impression that overall there were reductions in most university libraries," he said.

## Computer aid for careers advisers

A computer-based careers guidance system for students in higher education is to be developed by a consortium comprising London University's careers advisory service, Queen Mary College, London, and the computing firm Seicon.

The consortium is hoping to develop and pilot a prototype system over three years, at a cost of £630,000. The scheme has been conceived by the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services, and will help students assess their suitability for particular jobs.

The system will include databases containing details of up to 500 occupational areas, postgraduate education and training opportunities, information about employers who recruit graduates and lists of vacancies.

Special programmes will also help students evaluate their skills, interests and values, make career-goal decisions and form a plan of action to find jobs. The aim of the system is to form a national network across all institutions of higher education, and to enable professional careers guidance staff to concentrate on the more difficult and individual aspects of the counselling process.

The National Advisory Body and the University Grants Committee have each pledged £20,000 towards the cost of the project, which will be based at Queen Mary and Seicon's offices in London.

## Natthe loses panel vote

The college lecturers' union is to lose its vote on the Burnham primary and secondary committee under a shake-up of union membership proposed by Sir Keith Joseph.

But the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education should retain observer status on the committee, "to preserve this important working link" with the further education committee, he recommends.

Natthe leaders predicted that the move would increase the workload on the further education committee and create conditions in which the arbitration would be more difficult to avoid than in the past.

The Secretary of State's proposals involve the reduction of the overall size of the primary and secondary teachers' panel, through the loss of Natthe's vote and the reduction of the largest union, the National Union of Teachers, from 16 to 13 seats.

## FE unit's £1 million cut rejected

by Patricia Santinelli

The Secretary of State for Education has rejected his officials' advice to cut the Further Education Unit's budget by £1 million by 1988. Instead, he will review its funding annually.

Sir Keith Joseph's decision follows a meeting with the FEU board of managers last month, when Sir Keith apparently expressed some surprise at the range of work undertaken by the unit, which includes the updating scheme PICKUP. He acknowledged the FEU was being "saved" to build up that particular programme.

Sir Keith had been originally advised by his officials, in particular



Hot and sweaty runners, 140,000 of them, took part in the 15th annual Sydney to Surf road race last weekend.

And heading them all at the finish was Hugh Jones, a post-graduate studying at Liverpool university. He ran the 14 kilometre race from the city centre to Bondi, a suburb by the beach, in 41 minutes 48 seconds, 14 seconds faster than the next man.

Jones, who has a Liverpool degree in town planning, is working for a PhD on housing finance. It was his first serious race since the Olympics when he finished 12th in the marathon, after which he had to have an operation on one of his Achilles tendons. He won the London marathon in 1982 and his next will probably be in Peking at the end of September.

## Sheffield to shed 250 jobs

by Peter Aspdien

Sheffield University is to shed up to 250 jobs under a scheme of early retirement and voluntary redundancy which has been agreed by the university council.

Letters are being sent to all members of staff giving details of the scheme, which will only be available until mid-November. In the case of academic staff, the terms of the scheme are similar to the Government-funded package introduced to enable universities to cope with the 1981 cuts.

The adoption of the new scheme follows detailed talks with campus trade unions, which successfully sought an assurance that no suggestions should be made to individuals that they consider applying for premature retirement.

The university has also refrained from identifying a specific number of job losses needed over the next few years to deal with its shrinking income, but has said that the number will need to be "substantial".

The university treasurer, Mr James Eardley, told council members that the financial position would be "impossible" by 1990 if no steps were taken to achieve savings.

He said a recurrent saving on non-staffing expenditure of about £1 million planned for 1985-86 could not be sustained indefinitely, and that assumption had been built into the finance committee's projections.

Sheffield first warned of job losses in June, when a document considered by senate threatened the loss of 435 jobs by the end of the decade to cope with a cut in its resource base of 15 per cent over the same period.

Protests from trade unions over the suddenness of the announcement followed, and council agreed to postpone consideration of the document until more detailed consultations had taken place.

Council has now accepted the need for the job losses, having been told by the vice-chancellor, Professor Geoffrey Sims, that the university was facing a projected deficit of £1.86 million on its recurrent budget for this financial year.

## Kingman runs out of time on SERC five-year plan

The Science and Engineering Research Council is struggling over the production of its first corporate plan - a five-year prospect of the council's work which should have been issued last month for discussion over the summer.

Council officials hoped for approval of the draft plan at either of the last two full council meetings, in June and July, but both rejected the current version as, in the words of one member, "a description rather than a plan". Industrial members of the council, in particular, argued the document was weak on future objectives and priorities, and dwelt too much on existing work.

The new delay signals the end of Professor John Kingman's hopes for a radical reshaping of the SERC's future commitments during his term as chairman, which finishes at the end of

August. Last October he announced a complete review of SERC spending, intended to lead to decisions on "major surgery" early this spring. This was then deferred until the corporate plan was produced in the summer. But the plan will now go before a new council, with seven fresh members, in October.

The SERC is also waiting to see how changes in international exchange rates will affect its spending plans for next year. The pound's climb against the dollar and European currencies up to last week could have given the SERC a theoretical bonus of over £4 million from its payments to overseas laboratories.

However, the rate has begun to slip back since then, and SERC officials stress that it will be several months before they can feel confident of benefiting from a stronger pound.

New SERC members, page 6

## Council to appeal to NAB over teacher training decision

Hertfordshire has been taken aback by the decision of the National Advisory Body's board last week to end all teacher training provision there.

Mr Donald Fisher, the county education officer, had suggested that the committee or the Secretary of State for Education will overturn the board's decision," said a spokesman.

In the event of IT training courses being lost, the county would look very carefully at the transfer of inservice provision to Hatfield Polytechnic. The nearest colleges to offer such provision are Chelmer Institute, Hemerton in Cambridge and Middlesex Polytechnic.

Mr Geoffrey Brass, the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education's representative for Hertfordshire, said he had not been aware of Mr Fisher's latest proposals for the closure of the college. A meeting to decide on a plan of action was expected to take place at union headquarters yesterday.

"Our policy is one of merger with Hatfield Polytechnic. We agreed this in the last six months. Before that we supported the continuation of the college as a free-standing institution. We now feel that we have been left in a very bad position compared to other colleges and have been offered the sacrifice to satisfy Sir Keith Joseph's policy of rationalization," he said.

It was revealed this week that a proposal was tabled at last week's meeting of the NAB board to remove teacher training courses from Hatfield College of Higher Education once North Riding College had been given its reprieve. The move, supported by civil servants on the board, was ruled out of order on the grounds

that the college and its authority had not been notified of the proposal in advance.

Places have been taken from institutions throughout the public sector, although not from smaller training centres whose viability might be threatened by further cuts. After talks with officers to the Voluntary Sector Consultative Council, it was decided not to ask the voluntary colleges to provide all the places necessary to save the College of St Mark and St John.



I try in this column not to linger on my own subject but it is my subject and possibly more than many others it is impossible to escape from. Once you become interested, let alone involved, in architecture it is a lifelong obsession. Ask any architect's wife. Is he married to me or to architecture? They complain for a few years and then give up bothering.

So I cannot resist taking up a point raised by a correspondent to this paper concerning one of my columns when I discussed a recent report on housing and breathed a sigh of relief that all the evidence was settling down in favour of ordinary two-storey houses rather than high rise flats. Marjorie Bulos of the housing studies group in the Polytechnic of the South Bank writes that "there are many structurally sound and well managed high rise blocks of flats in all the metropolitan areas, and increasingly, major private developers are taking over or building new high rise blocks, many of which are finding a ready market among those with relatively high incomes".

It is a fair balance to the arguments I was making in my column. It also raises two fundamental issues which have been insufficiently recognized by the designers and managers of local authority housing. Those, in Marjorie Bulos's words, are that the blocks should be well managed and are suitable for people with relatively high incomes.

Looking back at my own experience as an architectural student after the war and working for an architect who was one of the pioneers of mixed development including high-rise, I am increasingly convinced that the designers were either thinking of a different social group from those who were going to occupy the housing or believed that we would all soon belong to the same group as a result of the social revolution of which housing was one of the main components. In other words they were thinking of reasonably prosperous middle-class small families keen to live together and behave in a cooperative manner.

The fact is that high flats are suitable for the rich. I have been in many such apartments and very attractive they are. They have all the facilities needed for high living: the lifts work; they have no graffiti, litter or excreta; there is a resident supervisor for the block (a concierge); the whole block is well maintained.

Given the money and the management to satisfy these requirements, there is no reason why high living should not be admirable for well off, single people or small families. What all the evidence shows is that they are quite unsuitable for the working class family with several children - that is, the people for whom they were designed.

Nor is this an English phenomenon. American sociologists, architects and planners have become convinced that high-rise housing is rarely workable for low and moderate income families with children. That comment comes from Paul Goldberger, the distinguished architecture critic of the New York Times. I will discuss him in another column. After all, I am obsessed with architecture.

Patrick Nuttgens

## Dark corners

Sir, - Your American correspondent William Norris (THES, July 26) thinks that the National Endowment for the Humanities "places a premium on the obscure" in choosing research projects of the 60 or so Americans arriving here soon "range from the arcane to the bizarre". Yet the three topics that the presumably illustrate his opinion are the history of British courts martial 1793-1815, the manuscripts of Abraham Cowley's poetry, and the evidence of religious visions in the 15th century.

Obscure these may be, in the sense (not Mr Norris's sense, I think) that they are unstudied areas of darkness (obscuritas) in which light needs to be shed: many worthwhile research projects are. But arcane, bizarre, or somewhere between?

Mr Norris's attitude to these topics is not even positively philistine: it is just to enable their subjects to survive and (b) to retain the possibility of research problems without being told in your column that they are "bizarre". After all, Sir Keith may believe what he reads in it.

Yours faithfully,  
G. R. RASTALL,  
5 Albert Grove, Leeds.

## Degree data

Sir, - So Mr Bourner of the Brighton Polytechnic database can explain our 1983 degree results in terms of the previous year's results (THES, July 26); through a process known as "subject norm referencing" we perpetuate an agreed view about the proper distribution of classes in our subject.

Students of single honours history at Newcastle University who obtained "good" degrees comprised 33.3 per cent in 1981, 54.3 per cent in 1982, 20.5 per cent in 1983, 42.0 per cent in 1984 and 53.3 per cent in 1985.

Let Mr Bourner explain 1, what exactly is the subject norm in the case of single honours history? 2, how exactly did subject norm referencing work in the case I have given and 3, what "good" degree in 1986?

Yours sincerely,  
DR M. D. PUGH,  
University of Newcastle upon Tyne.

## Double bind

Sir, - There arrived on my desk recently two missives from the administration, prompted by inquiries from the University Grants Committee. The first, headed "Shift to Science and Technology" required further information about a potential doubling of the size of my department. The second, headed "Planning for the Late 1980s", sought to know how I would cope with an 18 per cent reduction in funding.

Yours sincerely,  
D. W. BARRON,  
University of Southampton.

## Freud's fall

Sir, - Mr Kahr mentions my soon-to-be-published book on *The Decline and Fall of the Freudian Empire*, and goes on to state that "all the evidence suggests overwhelmingly that the Freudian empire is neither declining nor falling - it is growing and strengthening" (THES, May 31).

It all depends on what is growing and what is strengthening. As Kahr correctly points out, literary people, artists and others are certainly very taken with Freud's work, as are many teachers, social workers, probation officers and others who have to deal with people and their problems, without having any proper psychological training.

It is among leading psychiatrists in the United States and the United Kingdom, experimental psychologists and others who have seriously concerned themselves with the Freudian opus that there has been considerable disenchantment over the years, so that now very few would take Freud's methods of treatment not only do not work; they often make patients worse, as has been established by Hans Strupp. Typically, Kahr quotes a couple of books, "to attest to the benefits derived from psychoanalytical therapy"; he fails to quote those who suffered its deleterious effects, such as S. Sutherland has described in his book *Breakdown: A Personal Crisis and a Medical Dilemma*, or the numerous books detailing the abysmal failure of



Freud: fairytales

psychiatrists throughout the world to find any evidence to support Freudian claims for successful treatment. Let us face the fact that Freud himself was not a scientist, but a talented teller of fairytales. As Peter Medawar has pointed out, "Psychoanalysis won't do. It is an old product... like a dinosaur or a Zeppelin no better theory can ever remain forever one of the saddest and strangest of all landmarks in the history of 20th-century thought."

Yours sincerely,  
H. J. EYSENCK,  
Institute of Psychiatry,  
University of London.

## Critic's duty

Sir, - Muriel and Peter Selman (THES, July 26) say in their letter that the tone of my review of their book called *Plagues' Logic* reflected "a contemporary belief that mankind's most profound problems can be solved with a length of wire, a couple of switches and an updated abacus". In so doing they give an excellent example of the statement, and misdiagnosis that characterizes their book.

Whatever the merits and demerits of their thesis, as a book it is just very badly done, and I felt it my duty to say this in the review.

A book that is so wilfully obscure and so pretentious does not, in my view, deserve the kind of detailed attention that they clearly believe is

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES RUSSELL,  
Reader in psychology,  
University of Liverpool.

## Voluntary help

Sir, - Students of the development of adult literacy and basic skills provision should not be misled by Maggie Richards' statement that "the use of voluntary organizations has declined" (Reading between the lines, THES, June 14). The annual statistics certainly show a decrease in the number of students in voluntary sector provision, but what they do not show is the continuing influence of the voluntary organizations in developing the variety and the quality of opportunities open to potential learners.

A major share of the most important innovations over the past decade have been borne out of the work of the voluntary sector and have subsequent-

ly become widely adopted as good practice. Perhaps most important of these has been the success in putting into effect the idea that students should have a substantial element of control over their own learning and associated policy.

Furthermore, while the statistics may show the voluntary sector reaching fewer people, the reality is very different, with projects increasingly acting as a resource for a wide range of other local groups of the type described in your article. People in these groups are taking initiatives which reach far beyond traditional forms of tuition in their ability to make active force within their own communities.

We in the voluntary sector commend the Government's initiative in

allowing the Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit to help voluntary organizations develop this type of work. The next few years hold out some exciting possibilities and the voluntary sector, far from being in decline, will have a major role to play in making these a reality.

Yours sincerely,  
ERIC APPLEBY,  
Organizer,  
National Federation of Voluntary Literacy Schemes.

Letters for publication should arrive by Tuesday morning. They should be as short as possible and written on one side of the paper. The editor reserves the right to cut or amend them if necessary.



## DON'S DIARY

## MONDAY

Driving in, I set ambitious goals for the new week: (1) to tidy my desk, and (2) to make major progress on the Big Paper presenting the past year's collaborative research with colleagues at the nearby observatory. My contract was recently extended to cover the three summer months, and to celebrate I dropped the big paper for a few weeks to write a quickie analysing some old satellite data. The referee's report has come. The usual butterflies as I open the envelope. The referee wonders if there is not something more recent on the galactic acceleration than the 1956 results adopted in my analysis. This is fair enough, and needs investigation.

Telephone the university personnel office for various certificates necessary for the three-month extension of my *carte de séjour*. The police want more documents at each renewal: 19 separate pieces of paper this time.

A Korean visitor to the lab has had difficulty making photocopies arranged to discuss this. But he fails to return from a weekend train-trip to Paris, so I start organizing scraps of big paper draft by typing them into the text processor on the lab's new mainframe. The text processor works fine, but is incompatible with the non-standard lineprinter, and I can't print out all characters. Typewriters have advantages!

Leave work early, but on the autoroute there is a jam like I have never seen, and it is 1pm before I am home. The TV news reports a big train crash. My heart skips a beat for my missing Korean colleague. But the accident is not on the Marseilles line.

## TUESDAY

Go to the observatory for a meeting with my big paper coauthor, who is observatory director. I am early, so I scan *Nature* and *Physics Today* for jobs. There are none. My coauthor arrives looking surprisingly cheerful considering he has spent 24 hours in the dentist's chair. He drops the bombshell that none of the numerous possibilities he saw of temporary money for me for next year will be in. This is quite a blow, as I have been counting on this safety-net in case I don't find anything permanent.

We discuss our big paper. In part it is designed to reinforce our claim for some observing time on the space telescope, due for launch next year. We have high hopes of an allocation because our project requires all three of the telescope's unique capabilities: high angular resolution, great sensitivity, and ultraviolet response. Because space telescope will be 15-fold oversubscribed, it will be very prestigious to be awarded time, and if we me a job. In a project costing \$1.5 billion, surely there are a few pennies for me!

Back at the lab, the deputy director has received a request for a letter of recommendation on me, and asks my help in writing it. I find this very difficult, but rough out a skeleton of possible topics. I hope he writes something convincing because, given the Green Paper, the job concerned in likely to be the last in the UK for more recent work on the galactic acceleration. No sign of my Korean colleague.

## WEDNESDAY

I make some calculations and revise the quickie paper. A visitor from Berkeley gives a talk about a prop-

The arrangement of the various optical elements is clarified when he produces a large cardboard model. I wonder how he managed with it on the plane?

My Korean colleague reappears. He is fine. High-life in Paris was more attractive than photometry in Marseilles.

The THES has arrived. No jobs. "Differential pay plan for dons moves closer," says the headline. I am all in favour of rewarding people on results, as in the US, where an important part of keeping people on their toes is tenure, but only for nine months out of every 12. Academics must scout around for summer money. But my letter to Sir Keith suggesting this (easy to implement - no pay rises for three years) received a stony reply.

The TV news announces the death of a member of the Académie des Sciences. Would the BBC do the same for an FRS, or a British Nobel laureate? Spend the rest of the evening typing revisions to the quickie, ready for sending off tomorrow.

## THURSDAY

I begin a literature search on the galaxies that I hope to observe with space telescope. The afternoon is dedicated to my Korean colleague and his photometry problems, and in the early evening I achieve one of the week's goals and tidy my desk.

At 7.30 my wife arrives in the car, and we go on to dinner with colleagues from the physics department. I did some teaching of engineering students during the year. They were a mixed bunch, and although one has obtained a *mention très bien* (the first in 10 years), half have failed.

## FRIDAY

Finish typing scraps of big paper draft into the mainframe. Minor rather than major progress, but at least it is progress.

Sift my stack of job rejection letters to find the few courageous ones where the university has named the successful candidate. This gives names. What have they got that I don't? I run them through the EASA-QUEST database to list their publications. How do appointments committees evaluate articles? (They surely don't read them.)

My five winners have between five and 20 major papers each. I have nine. But different papers have different lengths and may have several authors. Dividing paper lengths by author numbers results in totals between 13 and 139 papers. I score 72. So publications are not my problem. I too decline to read my winners' articles, but their titles and by-lines give a clue to the secret of success. It is being already associated with the departmental research. No room for new topics!

The TV news reports that the launch of Spacelab-2 (devoted to astronomy) aborted three seconds before lift-off.

## SUNDAY

Bastille Day. Superb fireworks in Aix. I like the rockets which leave vertical and then horizontal orange trails, like giant gentians in the sky. A massive launch of whistling, sparkling "aéroplanes" receives deserved applause. Other rockets leave a wake of light, intense stars that brighten and fade, Disney-like. To open the heavens, like celestial fan vaulting. All this light - not a night for observing!

William Tobin

The author is assistant-associé in the physics department, Université d'Aix-Marseille I, and researches in astronomy at the nearby Laboratoire d'Astronomie Spatiale.

## Principal 'sacked' from NAB

by John O'Leary

Dr Harold Silver, principal of Bulmershe College of Higher Education, is being re-elected on the National Advisory Body teacher education group, which had the controversial task of recommending the withdrawal of teacher training from some colleges, only six months after being reappointed for a three-year term.

Dr Silver walked out of a meeting of the group in May, when the detailed distribution of places was under discussion. He had argued that allocations should not be finalized until it was clear whether institutions given extra training places would have to make compensatory cuts in other areas. He believed some cuts would prove disastrous for some colleges.

In June Dr Silver received a letter from Mr Christopher Ball, chairman of the NAB board, regretting that he had left the meeting and adding: "I regret therefore the fact that you find yourself unable to continue to participate in the work of NAB but would like to



Dr Silver: left meeting

take this opportunity to thank you for your contribution in the past." Dr Silver replied immediately that he had not resigned, merely withdrawn from the meeting because of his disagreement with the procedures and

assumptions of the exercise. Members of the group have said that no resignation was offered. However, last week Dr Silver received a second letter from Mr Ball saying that he had given much thought to his response. "I have to confess I am puzzled by your withdrawal from the meeting of TEG, and at a time when, in my view, it is not an event, I have decided to propose a replacement appointment," Mr Ball wrote.

Appointments to the NAB's training groups are in the gift of Mr Ball and Dr Silver has decided not to pursue the matter. He said this week, asserting that I have not resigned, preferring to 'interpret' my action.

Mr Ball declined to comment on the issue this week but confirmed that Silver must take his own view of his position, he said. "I have made clear how I see the matter in my letter to him."

## Rates rules challenged by Scots

by Olga Wojtas

Scottish Correspondent

Scotland's eight universities are planning to challenge the basis of their rates valuation which they claim is unfair compared to south of the border.

The Scottish institutions have been unhappy for a long time over higher valuations, but the situation has been worsened by this year's revaluation, which has increased rateable values by an average 2.75 per cent. It is some 11 years since revaluation in England.

The total rates bill for the Scottish universities is £20 million, including rates on hospital premises. Not all the university rates' notices have been processed yet but Edinburgh, for example, could face a leap from £4,100,000 to £5,700,000.

Mr Alan Weir, Glasgow University's finance officer, and secretary of the universities' joint rating and revaluation committee, said the universities had always been deburred from but hoped that last year's Rating and Revaluation Amendment (Scotland) Act might give a legal basis for "achieving justice."

The universities are currently taking legal advice and plan to appeal by the end of September. It is possible that Stirling may be chosen to fight a test case since comparisons with green field campuses in England show they have a considerably lower valuation.

The universities claim that they are a special case when it comes to the rating system, compared to offices and factories, and that they should be considered on a UK basis.

Mr Weir said the University Grants Committee had warned the universities that they must do all they could to minimize their rates liability. "Rates are taking up more and more of the UGC's budget, and in Scotland are wildly in excess of the cash available," he said.

## Uncertainty surrounds end to monkey research

Uncertainty and controversy continue to surround the joint research programme at the universities of Glasgow and Pennsylvania involving experiments on monkeys' brains in spite of a statement from Glasgow announcing the end of the work.

Professor Gary Francione, of the American university's law department, claimed in Glasgow this week that he had seen a grant application for the experiments to continue. The work was halted last month when federal funds for the project were frozen after an investigation by the United States' National Institute of Health.

The allegation was made at a meeting called by the Scottish Anti-Vivisection Society who along with their counterparts in the United States have consistently campaigned to have the research halted.

Professor James Hume Adams of Glasgow's dept of neuropathology reiterated his statement that the research involving monkeys has definitely

come to an end. It was common place, he said, for grant submissions to be made considerably in advance of project start dates. The Pennsylvania application had been made before it had been decided to halt the experiments and carried no sinister overtones.

According to Professor Adams, Dr Thomas Ciemerelli, his opposite number in America, had confirmed a writing that the Henry J. Gray Research Centre at Pennsylvania would conduct no more of the experiments.

The Glasgow research team maintain that the work has reached a natural and successful conclusion, yielding important results on the control of coma and brain damage after head injury.

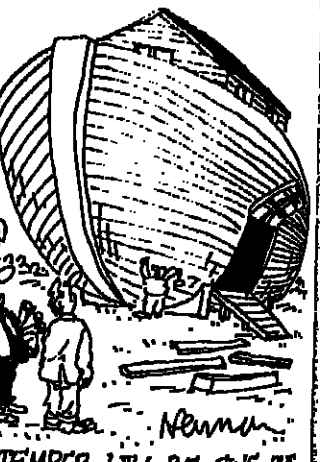
Although the experiments on monkey brains will not be resumed, Professor Adams intends to continue to collaborate with the University of Pennsylvania in research requiring experiments on guinea pigs and squid.

## Bright outlook for autumn

It's simply no use going away on holiday until autumn this year. The reason is an Indian summer in September, according to Emeritus Professor Roland Davies of Exeter University who bases his prediction on weather forecasts by computer model.

The former professor of mathematics at Exeter developed the model in 1980 and now claims to be able to compute mid-winter conditions based on two simple sets of data: sea surface temperatures in the tropics, and Arctic air flows.

"Summer periods are harder to predict because there is no strong circulation, and obviously there will be local variations," he says. But the computer model has already demonstrated the feasibility of forecasting general trends, accurately pinpointing 12 out of 17 severe winters.



"SEPTEMBER WILL BE FINE BUT I DON'T LIKE THE OUTLOOK FOR NOVEMBER."

## Council should investigate sex discrimination

by Adriana Caudrey

The director of Lancashire Polytechnic, Mr Eric Robinson, has called for his local county council to launch an immediate internal inquiry into the extent of sex discrimination in its colleges and schools.

His demand comes days after Labour-led Lancashire council was found by an industrial tribunal to have repeatedly rejected a deputy head teacher for a series of headships because she was a woman, and was ordered to pay her £800 compensation.

Mr Robinson wants the council, which is currently drawing up an equal opportunities policy, to investigate the circumstances surrounding Mrs Vera Chadwick's repeated rejections for the to reopen the files on Mrs Pam Ack-ley, who was denied an interview for a lecturer post at Blackpool College, although she was a well-established part-time employee. He has suggested

that the polytechnic should play an active part in such an inquiry. Although Mrs Ackley's complaint of sex discrimination did go before an industrial tribunal, it was not fought by the county council. Instead the council agreed to pay her £500, without giving for having mistakenly instigated a police inquiry into her.

Mr Robinson believes that these cases suggest there may be victimization of other women within the Lancashire education service, but that they may not have dared to protest publicly.

Mr Robinson argues that the council should conduct its own investigations into any alleged sex discrimination, and should set up a grievance procedure specifically to deal with these matters. But he believes it currently lacks the expertise, commitment, or staff to do this. He suggests that the council could draw on the experience of a number of polytechnic staff who have been given special responsibility for safeguarding equal opportunities.

He points out that if the council was able to handle its own investigations, cases need not end up before an industrial tribunal. This would not only save the council the cost of compensation money, but also that of allowing several officers to devote time to preparing for a hearing. Mr Robinson also makes this point in the response which he is preparing to the council's draft equal opportunities policy.

He believes that the recent tribunal highlights inadequacies not only in the council's current position, but also in its draft policy. He added that the tribunal had confirmed the general impression that Lancashire had a bad record on sex discrimination.

One countywide fact to emerge from the tribunal was that during the period they were investigating only two out of 104 mixed secondary schools had a woman head. One of these, a nun, was the head of a Roman Catholic secondary school.

## The 'non-scientist' in charge of report on private funding

by Jon Turney  
Science Correspondent

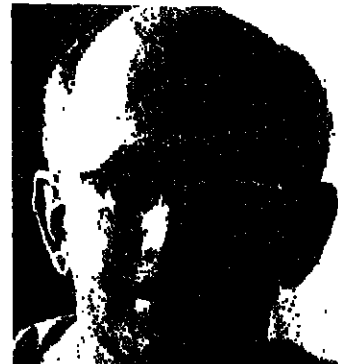
The Advisory Board for the Research Councils has entrusted preparation of its forthcoming report on private funding for research to the man who describes himself as the board's token non-scientist. Professor Peter Mathias, whose committee will put the finishing touches to its report over the summer, stresses he is not even a social scientist, but a historian.

However, as professor of economic history at Oxford, he is well placed to assess the role of academic research in industrial development. He is one of the independent members of the 24-strong ABRC, and his knowledge of industry, his academic connections and his interest in private funding - signified by his membership of the academic advisory council for the University College of Buckingham - all helped guide the board's choice of chairman for the working party, announced earlier this year.

The other members of the group are Mr Ronald Artus of the Prudential Corporation, for expertise in banking and venture capital, Dr Walter Bodmer, research director of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, one of the largest research charities, Mr Martin Wood of Oxford Instruments and the board's chairman, Sir David Phillips.

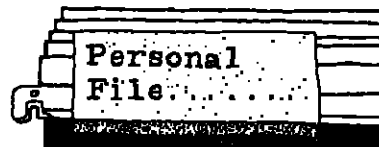
Professor Mathias is reluctant to forecast the group's conclusions, but their general approach has been to try to chart the areas where non-government sponsors might pay for research in fields now supported by the ABRC - and to see if they can contribute to a strategy for complementary public and private sector funding.

The study was requested by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, and is an indication of growing interest among ministers in the potential for channelling industrial cash into academic laboratories. Both Sir Keith and Mr Geoffrey Pattle, minister for in-



formation technology at the Department of Trade and Industry, have recently met leading industrialists to discuss the importance of the country's science base.

As Professor Mathias puts it, everyone is at it in this area. The ABRC study will overlap considerably with a joint ABRC/Advisory Council for Applied Research and Development report on academic-industrial links issued two years ago.



And Professor Mathias himself is on a new group set up by the committee of vice-chancellors and principals on universities and industry.

The group's findings will be read closely in the DES, in the light of the board's oft-reiterated advice to increase the science budget, but he believes the purpose of the inquiry is not to compromise the board's public position on funds.

The position was a researcher on secondment from merchant bankers Morgan Grenfell for three months. With her help, Professor Mathias hopes they can draw a detailed map of where private money goes now across the research spectrum, which industrial sectors it comes from, and how much comes from large and small firms.

The ABRC hopes Sir Keith requested the study because he wanted to increase the flow of research cash, rather than trim the allocation from the exchequer. Certainly companies, foundations and charities responding to the study group's initiative have all emphasised that any increase in their support should not be the cause of decreases in public funding.

July is the busiest time for independent ABRC members, as they have to assess the compelling claims of the five research councils before the board makes its recommendations to Sir Keith on the following year's science budget. But now that is past, Professor Mathias should have more time for his other job for the board.

In between, he is also writing a report on schools and institutions of archaeology for the British Academy, of which he is honorary treasurer. And he is trying to work out if he can accept an invitation to lecture for a term in Geneva next year while retaining his membership of the ABRC.

## Double IT boost for Southampton

by Peter Aspden

Southampton University has received a double financial boost from the University Grants Committee and the EEC's Esprit information technology programme.

The UGC has agreed in principle to give the university at least £2.5 million to help towards the cost of a new electronics building. The electronics department, one of the oldest in the country, currently houses its 500 staff and students among 13 different sites.

The university has already raised nearly £1 million for the £3.5 million building, and news of the UGC boost now means construction can go ahead in two years' time.

The university's chancellor, Earl Jellicoe, announcing the funding, said the award of such a large sum in the climate of shrinking resources for universities as a whole was a tribute to Southampton's work.

The electronics department recently played host to a prestigious conference of world authorities on integrated circuit technology, which included rep-

resentatives from the United States and the Soviet Union.

Meanwhile, a research team from Southampton has won a £500,000 grant from the EEC's Esprit IT development programme for work on a "transputer", a powerful microprocessor which contains its own memory and the facility to communicate with other transputers.

Dr Chris Jesshope, one of the research team from the electronics department, said the EEC funding would enable the university to put 20 years of research into the new project.

The University Grants Committee has announced the distribution of the extra £9.75 million it has provided to enable universities to improve the funding of computer science.

The largest grants have been received by London University (£1.35 million), Manchester University and the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (£740,000 between them) and Leeds University (£340,000).

## Cuts prompt early retirement

A UMIST professor said that "pointless" government planning exercises were among the reasons which had caused him to seek early retirement at 60.

Professor John Hearle, head of UMIST's department of textile technology, said that the UGC was calling for research plans every 12 or 18 months, often asking for the same exercise to be repeated with different parameters.

"We know that the UGC can't evaluate the plans when it does get them, because it simply hasn't got the staff," Professor Hearle declared. "So they just lie buried under piles of paper."

He described the latest programme

of government cuts - an average of 2 per cent per annum - as "disincentivising" for universities, even though UMIST, as a centre of science and technology, might not suffer so seriously as some other institutions.

Professor Hearle, who has been at UMIST for 36 years, will still be involved in some research there. Meanwhile he is to leave on August 15 for a lecture and consultation tour which will take him to Japan, India, New Zealand and America.

In 1986 and 1987 he will be a visiting professor at the University of Delaware, which has recently been declared a centre of excellence by the US government, with a grant of one million dollars.

## Overseas success creates a housing crisis

Stirling University is facing an accommodation crisis because of its success in attracting overseas students.

Senior civil servants, educationalists and academics from overseas are going to Stirling in record numbers, the majority attracted by courses in accountancy, business studies and aquaculture. Two senior members of Stirling's staff are currently in Malaysia on a recruiting drive, and around 60 offers have been made for the university's MBA in accountancy.

Mrs Marjory Russell, the university's accommodation officer, said the numbers of overseas students had been building up over the past five years, but this year there had been an increase in offers, with acceptances running above normal.

"There is definitely a risk that we will not find accommodation for all of them," she said.

families - are already expected for the coming season.

"In this area to find 50 family houses within a suitable price range would be a remarkable achievement," she said. Stirling itself has 1,800 single residential places on campus with 35 family flats, most of which are already occupied by overseas students.

The university has now appointed someone full-time to seek suitable accommodation around the campus. Mrs Russell said Stirling was a desirable residential area, and there was therefore little commercial letting. Another problem is that Stirling's session begins early, in mid-September, which is still the tourist season in Scotland.

Isolated farm cottages with minimal furnishings would cost around £150 a month, and were eagerly sought by

to the climate and without transport, Mrs Russell said.

But the university was being asked up to £500 a month for centrally heated modern flats, which overseas students could not afford. "We are desperately looking for accommodation at around £250," said Mrs Russell.

Stirling hopes that local home owners will be encouraged to lease to the university rather than individual students, since this does not create a protected tenancy, and rent is guaranteed and paid in advance. People who might not consider leasing to a group of undergraduates might feel differently about leasing to a senior civil servant and his family, she added.

The university is this season to launch a "Welcome Centre" jointly with Central Regional Council for the children of overseas students, with a teacher who will help their assimilation

## Cox quits front bench to get back to research

Baroness Cox has stepped down from her front-bench position in the House of Lords, as baroness in waiting, because she needs "the freedom of the back bench, to research and speak and publish."

Lady Cox, who is well-known as an author of the Black Papers on education, and who has also gone into print condemning allegedly left-wing bias at the Polytechnic of North London, was enigmatic about where her main areas of research would lie.

She intends to devote more time to her work with the National Council for

Educational Standards, and with the educational study group of the Centre for Policy Studies - a group which she used to chair.

"I would value the opportunity to speak from the back benches again on education," Lady Cox said.

Her five months as baroness in waiting was a three-fold responsibility. It entailed being a Government representative in the House of Lords, a baroness in waiting to the Queen, and Government spokesman on home affairs, education and environment in the Lords.

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Before, during and after: Dr Jack Earls, director of Humberstone College of Higher Education, takes a ducking in the college's helicopter ditching simulator before taking up an invitation to visit a North Sea oil rig. The simulator, which lowers its victims beneath the water and turns them upside down, is used in courses run for the offshore oil and gas industry.



## King's is heir to Cornwall House site

by Peter Aspdon

The new King's College - incorporating Queen Elizabeth and Chelsea colleges - is hoping to acquire Cornwall House on the South Bank by the autumn, creating a new "Thames-side campus" on either side of the river to replace its existing sites.

The college is currently centred in three major locations - Strand, Kensington and King's Road - as well as numerous smaller sites all over central London. Most of these will be sold in the next few years, however, if the Cornwall House move goes ahead.

The Government has already agreed to the college's use of the building, and confirmation by the London University court and the University Grants Committee is expected in the coming months.

The college proposals are revealed in the college's academic plan, following the formal implementation of the KOC merger on August 1. The new college has some 6,000 students in 63 departments across 10 faculties, and will concentrate on a broad base of activities.

The merger, described by Lord Scarman, chairman of the university court, as the "most important development" in the sphere of higher education today, is not even yet complete, as talks are still going on between King's and Westminster on future collaboration.

The college's principal, Professor Stewart Sutherland said it would be three years before the first departments started moving into Cornwall House.

He said the college would benefit academically from the merger, giving as an example the new look faculty of life sciences, which will become one of the major centres in teaching and research in Britain, with both pure and applied biological sciences being strongly represented.

## In September The Times Higher Education Supplement

published a 4-page analysis of the joint statement from the University Grants Committee and the National Advisory Body regarding the basis for considering the present and future role of higher education in our society.

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## Professionals get tough

The Government's attitude towards continuing education has come under fire from 13 professional bodies who argue that the recent Green Paper, *Higher Education into the 1990s*, displays a lack of commitment to or concrete support for continuing professional development.

The criticisms are set out in a joint letter to Secretary of State for Education and Science Sir Keith Joseph, by the Continuing Professional Development in Construction Group and five other professional bodies.

In it, they express deep disappointment over the Government's failure to take the lead in the promotion of continuing education. "Overall, the words outlining Government support are contradicted by the proposed deeds or lack of deeds. There is no sense of a larger urgency compelled by the economic needs of the country, and the impression is that this area of higher education is of little real interest to the Government," the letter states.

## Labour plans cash for research

An extra injection of public funds into civil research and vocational training is promised in a joint Labour Party/UC plan for the regeneration of Britain published this week.

The Conservative Government is accused of deliberately encouraging British companies to neglect research and development, and of creating skill shortages by making it difficult for the Manpower Services Commission to operate properly.

"A priority for any credible industrial policy must be to reverse the run down in civil research and development that is crippling our economic prospects," the policy document says. Further education would be given greater resources to expand training with special programmes for women. *Jobs and Industry: a new partnership, a new Britain*, published by the TUC and the Labour Party 60p.

The bodies, among them the Law Society, Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, British Veterinary Association and Royal College of Midwives, stress the need for more positive, tax concessions for salaried staff whose employers will not foot the cost of course fees and Government funds for the updating of teachers in technical and vocational subjects.

At present, the Professional, Industrial and Commercial Updating Programme funding for the year has been increased to £2.9 million but this is regarded as a minute contribution in the face of the need to involve academia, the professions and industry in CPD schemes.

Hard on the heels of the critique is the announcement by the Department of Education and Science of a £24,400 study of the CPD scheme for chartered surveyors - to be conducted by the College of Estate Management.

The one-year project is designed to evaluate the benefit of updating for surveyors and develop guidelines for the CPD in construction Group executive secretary Mrs Elizabeth Layton sees this as a "drop in the ocean", albeit admirable. Sir Keith Joseph expects professional bodies to take the initiative in developing updating policies.

His approach that employers should more fully accept their responsibilities and be ready to meet the costs of updating their staff is further clarified in a letter to Professor Lewis Elton of the Institute of Educational Development, Surrey University.

Sir Keith was responding to Professor Elton's appraisal that the Green Paper may have been "too soft" on employers. He also makes it clear that while the Government accepts an obligation to give a lead in promoting continuing education, the ultimate responsibility lies with the employers.

## Three vital ingredients in recipe of marketing success

by Patricia Santinelli

Contrary to recent criticisms, colleges of further education are involved in a wide range of marketing and research activities. But three vital ingredients are missing, according to an unpublished study from the Further Education Unit.

The study, conducted on behalf of the FEU by HR and H Marketing Research International Ltd, says there are three principal elements to an overall marketing strategy or policy: coordination of efforts and activities; and systematic application of formal procedures.

"These could best be achieved by means of reallocating resources. We believe this to be vital if the Government's stated aim of a 'market oriented approach' is to be achieved. FE colleges will need to become increasingly marketing and training oriented, as well as business-minded," the report says.

The study, which was intended to establish whether there was a role for a specific marketing function in further education, took place in five colleges thought to represent a cross-section of

British urban life. In addition, local industry and employers were interviewed.

The five colleges were Cambridge College of Further Education; Rampton College of Technology, Cardiff; Hackney College, London; Loughborough Technical College, and Bedford College of Further Education in Nottingham.

On the whole, colleges regarded the idea of a specific marketing function favourably. They believed this would mean less duplication of effort.

Employers, on the other hand, although they said they could gain substantially from making use of FE courses, felt strongly that these could be made more relevant to their needs by college staff visiting the workplaces more often.

The study has come up with a long list of recommendations. Among these is that a full time marketing professional should be appointed or alternatively a college marketing council. It also wanted to see the allocation of a marketing budget which adequately reflected marketing requirements and obligations.

## New chairman named as SERC faces change

The Department of Education and Science has confirmed that Professor Bill Mitchell will be the next chairman of the Science and Engineering Research Council. Professor Mitchell, a solid state physicist, is head of the Clarendon Laboratory at Oxford University, and will take up the new post for five years from October 1.

His predecessor, Sir John Kingman, decided to leave the SERC a year early to take up the vice chancellorship of Bristol University. This means the new appointment will coincide with changes at the top of three of the council's four boards - the main scientific decision-making committees which report to council. New chairmen of the science, nuclear physics and engineering boards are among seven new members of council announced

this week. Professor Brian Fender succeeds Professor John Cadogan of BP as chairman of the science board. Professor Fender was formerly director of the Institut Laue-Langevin in Grenoble and this year became vice chancellor of Keele University.

Professor Donald Perkins is the new chairman of the nuclear physics board. Professor Perkins holds a chair in elementary particle physics at Oxford University, and succeeds Professor Tom Kibble of Imperial College, London, who stood in briefly following the resignation earlier this year of Professor Derek Colley.

Mr David Shore, technical director of APV Holdings Ltd, succeeds Mr Diamond Downs as chairman of the engineering board. The three will be

joined by four other new council members: Dr Charles Reece, director of research and technology at ICI, and a member of the Advisory Council on Applied Research and Development; Professor Malcolm Jeeves, a neuropsychologist and vice principal of the University of St Andrews; Professor Robert Wilson, an astronomer and director of observatories for the University of London; and Professor David Davies, an electrical engineer at University College London and chairman of the SERC and Department of Trade and Industry-funded Joint Opto-Electronics Research Scheme.

The additional new appointments replace Mr Philip Hughes, and Professors Mark Richmond, William Wilcock, and Alastair MacFarlane, whose memberships end this month.

## 'Switch' calls jam the switchboard

Paisley College of Technology is inundated by calls from prospective applicants only 24 hours after announcing an extra 85 places in engineering and technology next session, funded by Scottish Education Department "switch" money.

The day after advertising the place in the local media, Paisley says it were phone inquiries every two minutes, with an additional 200 application forms sent to callers.

Comments on the Green Paper were submitted before the end of January 1986, ministers have announced. The end of the consultation period a month later than initially intended by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

## EEC fees rate

Students from Spain and Portugal pay tuition fees at the home state rate as soon as their countries join the EEC on January 1, 1986. But they still have to pay at the full overseas rate for the first term of the new academic year.

## Standing firm

Sir Peter Foggitt, vice chancellor of Queen's University, Belfast, has issued a statement expressing his university's determination to resist any proposal to close its school of architecture.

Sir Peter said he was taking seriously leaks of the forthcoming report from a transitory group of architecture, which is expected to recommend the closure of the Queen's school, together with those at Huddersfield and North East London Polytechnics.

## Tycoons wanted

Budding tycoons are currently being sought for the New Enterprise Programme, one of the Manpower Services Commission's adult training and retraining schemes operating in 16 major business schools. Applicants must be at least 18 and out of full time education.

## Joint bid to replace cut in UGC grants

by Felicity Jones

A consortium of nine universities is ready to launch a summer academy scheme in a bid to generate income to compensate for the cuts in University Grants Committee grant.

The summer academy is the brainchild of Kent University which is to put up the risk capital and the university's finance committee has agreed to underwrite any losses incurred by the other universities.

A central administrative office based at Kent will coordinate the week-long study programmes which have been devised by a representative committee of all the participant institutions. Each of the universities will provide four courses which will be repeated once during next summer and will draw upon the existing expertise of the extra-mural departments.

Mr Nick Riding, secretary to Kent's school of continuing education said there was a gap in the provision of this kind of academic course, as opposed to recreation or leisure weeks, similar to successful holidays run in the United States for retired Americans held on university campuses.

"We wanted to achieve a good geographic spread at first and then expand the scheme if it is a success. We

have had inquiries from other universities who want to come in," he said.

The universities involved are Birmingham, Durham, East Anglia (with Cambridge), Edinburgh, Exeter, Liverpool, Sheffield, Swansea and Kent. It is envisaged that some students may want to move from one university to another and the programme has been devised with this continuity in mind.

Mrs Ann Lewis, administrative officer of Durham University's department of adult and continuing education said they faced a deficit of £30,000 next year and a further 14.9 per cent cut in grant the year after.

"The summer academy represents the entrepreneurial activity to try to make up that deficit. The universities have always been involved in summer schools but these have been declining partly due to the development of activity holidays.

"We believe the summer study school is due for a revival and saw greater benefit in pooling resources with other universities through the consortium," she said. Durham University's four courses will be on Hadrian's Wall, frontier Anglo-Scottish history, the northern monasteries and Northumbria's Victorian legacy.

## Backing for compulsory updating

by Jon Turney

Science Correspondent

The Department of Education and Science has backed the Engineering Council's suggestion that professional updating be made mandatory for all professional engineers.

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said last week it was important for professions close to wealth creation, such as engineering, to move quickly towards regular updating.

The DES response to an Engineering Council discussion paper says there is a strong case for making professional recognition conditional on completion of continuing education and training. And the department says newly qualified engineers should be required to do such courses to maintain their membership of professional engineering institutions.

The department calls on the Engineering Council to take the lead in promoting updating, and says that the goal should be to extend mandatory updating to all members of the profession. It says engineers with new qualifications can quickly find their knowledge and skills seriously out of date, and this can significantly impede industrial performance.

However, the DES makes no commitment to increasing Government spending in the area, referring only to a need for a change in attitudes by employers, professional institutions and training providers, and for an increase in industrial investment.

The DES paper says employees and professional groups must accept personal and corporate responsibility for updating professional knowledge. The department will continue to encourage universities, polytechnics and colleges to expand their continuing education and training work.

The Engineering Council is running a study of firms' attitudes to continuing education and training, expected to be completed later this year.

## IT boost in reply to skills report

by Patricia Santinelli

In a rapid response to the Butcher report on skills shortages, the Business Technician Education Council is to pilot two new information technology courses in around 14 polytechnics and colleges from this autumn.

The two new courses are aimed specifically at technicians. One will offer a higher national diploma in information technology, covering analysis, design and implementation of IT systems. The second will offer a HND in business information technology designed to educate practitioners who can promote, facilitate and integrate IT based systems within commerce, industry and administration.

Both courses come in the wake of



Jacqueline Scully overcame deafness to take a first-class degree in biochemistry at Oxford University. She lost her hearing at the age of eight after contracting meningitis and had to lip-read lectures during her time at Hertford College. She is pictured at the John Radcliffe Hospital, in Oxford, where she is spending the summer doing research before embarking on a PhD at Cambridge University.

findings outlined in the second report of the IT skills shortages committee under the chairmanship of Mr John Butcher, junior minister for trade and industry, published earlier this year.

This focused on the shortage of technicians with IT skills and concluded that there was a need both for a greater number of people with such skills and for a general level of IT skills in the technician workforce.

As a result, BTETC entered into discussions with representatives of the Department of Trade and Industry, the Engineering Council, the National Computer Centre, International Computers Ltd, the Manpower Services Commission and colleges and polytechnics.

The courses will be run or are expected to be run at the following institutions - Brighton, Huddersfield, Lancashire, Leeds, Leicester, Manchester, Newcastle, Teesside and Thames polytechnics, as well as the colleges of Buckinghamshire, Dorset, Farnborough and Slough.

Draft guidelines for the IT courses will be issued this autumn though definitive details will not be produced and distributed until a full evaluation of the pilot schemes has taken place.

● Prestel Education has decided to reduce its time charge to users by a third. The new tariff will be 4p a minute instead of the standard rate of 6p and will apply regardless of usage.

## Research will aim to ease trauma of divorce

Breaking up is hard to do - but it might become substantially less rancorous, not to mention cheaper, if a team of academics from Newcastle University succeed in establishing a nationwide conciliation service for couples involved in marriage disputes.

The group, led by Professor Anthony Ogus, professor of law, has been awarded nearly £400,000 by the Lord Chancellor's department to get up a conciliation project unit, which will look at ways of lessening the traumas of divorce and family breakdown.

The eight-person team will investigate the cost effectiveness of various informal conciliation schemes which exist all over the country at present, weighing up the cost of their operation and the consumer satisfaction derived from them.

"There has been a trend of using more informal procedures for trying to solve divorce problems and make settlements, and the Lord Chancellor's department has been considering for some time whether to devise a national conciliation service," said Professor Ogus.

"Rather than have a judge or registrar making decisions about things

like custody of children and access, it is more effective in many cases to get both parties round the table and use a conciliator who will look for a voluntary agreement."

He said such schemes already took place both in and out of court, with the help of probation officers, marriage guidance counsellors and other specialists.

Mrs Janet Walker, a lecturer in social policy, said the group would study individual families over an 18-month period to find out their needs during periods of acute stress, and would also concentrate on the effects of separation and divorce on children's emotional development.

On the legal side, the unit will examine the costs of court time, solicitors' services and the time spent by various parties in the legal and conciliation process. Professor Ogus said the establishment of the unit reflected the need for an inter-disciplinary approach to the problem.

Assuming there is no further increase in the rate of divorce or the number of children per couple, the unit estimates that some 1.6 million children will see their parents get divorced during the next 10 years.

## Union asks for medical accounts examination

London Hospital Medical College is considering a union's plea for accountants to investigate its finances and find ways of avoiding redundancies.

This was suggested by the Association of University Teachers during talks with college authorities over the activities of the academic board sub-committee which has been given the task of defining an "affordable staff structure."

Union leaders fear that the activities of the subcommittee, known as the

Academic Development and Planning Team could lead to redundancies.

The talks were cordial, but inconclusive. AUT London regional official Mr Malcolm Keight said afterwards: "We hope to receive some assurances about the procedure the college is adopting, in particular that no decisions will be taken without proper consultation with the unions and the fullest debate by the academic board."

"However the college was unable to give any indication that redundancies

would be avoided."

The team's report is expected to be discussed by the academic board early in the autumn.

Earlier this year the college told the AUT that a medium-term financial plan required the need for redundancies, which were first threatened last October when the financial position seemed grim. But the union fears that the team's recommendation which is being drawn up in consultation with external assessors could also lead to worse staff/student ratios.



## Those hazy, crazy days of summer

Schooldays are supposed to be the best days of your life, but waiting for A level results can be miserable. Although NUS is still (mistakenly) seen as a higher education body, over 200,000 of our members will have been sitting their A levels this summer, and as the long wait drags on into the middle of August, I feel for them.

As if slogging away for two years and then spending May and June huddled in examination rooms were not enough. At this time of year the system demands the hardest task of all - sit back, wait and worry. From the inevitable deflation after the last exam paper, through the search for a summer job (or days of vegetation in front of the box watching Wimbledon), until the computer slip arrives to the sound of joy, resignation or downright despair - all this will be necessary so long as exam results are regarded as the ultimate measure of ability and attainment, and the basic requirement for continuing higher education.

It is because of this system of dependence on one system of assessment that the NUS views with concern recent studies illustrating injustices of the A level grading system. These have shown that the difference between a B and C can be as little as three marks, which is well within any examiner's margin of error. Yet this division is crucial, because it is a B or a C which may secure a place at a candidate's first choice institution.

Whether the latest proposals for a review of the grading system will iron out such inequities remains to be seen, but the initial effect will almost certainly be to ensure that more students will get A and C grades than will obtain Bs. Although this will undoubtedly mean higher conditional offers from admissions tutors, constrained by fears of over-subscription, it may also lead to applicants being assessed on interview performance rather than purely grades.

The concern over grades is highlighted by the loss of places in universities which have chosen to maintain their unit of resources. The effect can be seen in the increase of nearly 40 per cent in applications to polytechnics and colleges of higher education, many from candidates who fear their A level results will not make the grade for university. This is despite the fact that only a few years ago they would have been prime candidates for a place.

As youth employment leaves more and more young people turning to the chance of further and higher education for some hope of a future, competition for places is becoming increasingly stiff. Some of those who would have made it into university now look to polytechnics, and my fear is for those who may be squeezed out of the system altogether. It is a sad irony that as continuing education is held up to today's school leavers as a source of light at the end of the tunnel, for some the light will be snuffed out after the long struggle through.

For these, it may be another year of A levels, with another nerve-racking wait in six months' time as they compete with a fresh batch of hopefuls. One thing is sure, whatever they say about schooldays being the best days of your life, I know very few undergraduates - or academics for that matter - who would want to go through what many young people are currently going through again.

Liz Sewell

The author is an executive member of the National Union of Students.



# Study shows rising cost of learning

from William Norris

WASHINGTON

There is no such thing as a free lunch, and certainly no such thing as a free college education in America — unless you happen to be an outstanding athlete. But until this week there was a widespread belief that young people from the poorest families could, with various forms of aid, complete their studies almost entirely at public expense.

It is not so. A study released by the American Council on Education shows that when all the figures are added up, low income families must expect to pay at least one half the costs of college.

Those costs are high, and getting higher. An undergraduate at a public college must now expect to pay around \$20,000 for a four-year degree course — at a private institution the figure will exceed \$30,000.

The report, which defines a low-income family as one with \$15,000 a year or less, says that after allowing for grants, such families will pay about

\$2,500 annually out of their own pockets for each student at a public university, and \$4,000 plus at an independent institution.

The main forms of financial assistance for students are the so-called Pell grants (named after Senator Claiborne Pell), which currently provide up to \$1,900 per year or half the cost of education, whichever is less — and guaranteed student loans at subsidized rates of interest. Under the latter scheme, undergraduate students can borrow up to \$2,500 a year, to a maximum of \$12,500. Graduate and professional students may borrow up to \$5,000 a year to a total of \$25,000.

All forms of aid are means-tested, and the probability of obtaining financial help falls off sharply once family income exceeds \$25,000. The ACE report found that only one in three students receives a Pell grant, compared to two out of three where family income was less than \$25,000. More seriously, 17 per cent of low-income students at public universities were unable to get Pell grants at all, and 13 per cent of those at private

colleges.

The report, which was compiled with the aid of a Ford Foundation grant from the official records of 15,000 students, concludes that poor students have come to rely increasingly on borrowed money. On average, depending on the type of institution they attend, they will borrow between \$7,500 and \$9,000 to complete their degree course. This means that for 10 years after leaving university they will have to pay back between \$112 and \$124 each month — a considerable extra burden for young people who probably went to get married, buy a house and start a family.

The consequences are becoming far-reaching: there is a sharp fall in the numbers of black and other minority freshmen at the universities, many of them unable or unwilling to take on the extra burden of debt. And among career choices are being increasingly dictated by their ability to generate enough money for the repayments.

This worries educators like Kenneth H. Ashworth, commissioner of the

Texas College and University System Governing Board, who told a congressional hearing that students were now less likely to take up jobs which serve the public, such as teaching, because they feared their salaries would be too low to service the loans.

In spite of administration efforts to cut back on student aid, Pell grants are to be increased next year to a maximum of \$2,100 or 60 per cent of education costs. In 1984/85 they were given to 2.8 million low-income students at a cost to the federal government of \$3.3 billion. This increase, however, will be insufficient to meet the rising charges at universities, which are going up by double the rate of inflation and sometimes more.

Some educators want to see a guaranteed loan programme introduced to fill the gap, but this is anathema to Dr Bennett has gone on record with the belief that many colleges are one price, and that an increase in fees will simply encourage them to raise their fees even further.

## Science budget halved

from Christine Tausig

OTTAWA

Substantial budget cuts at the Science Council of Canada have left staff demoralized and apprehensive. The council was told this week that its budget is to be slashed almost in half from \$4.5 million to \$2.5 million and the staff reduced from 68 to 30. The cuts are to be carried out by the next fiscal year.

The council was established in 1966 as the science policy "think tank". Although it advises the federal government on science and technology issues, it operates at arm's length from the government.

Word of possible cutbacks came in May, when the recommendation of a cost-cutting task force was tabled along with the progressive conservative government's first budget. The task force proposed not only reducing the science council's budget, but also allowing the government more control of its activities.

When businessman and council board member Adam Zimmerman heard of the plan he immediately led fellow board members in an impromptu protest march to the offices of prime minister Brian Mulroney and Tom Siddons, minister of state for science and technology. Such a budget decrease, stated Mr Zimmerman later, is an "execution, not a cut".

This week, however, when the proposed cutbacks were confirmed by Mr Siddons, the federal government vowed not to interfere with the council's independence. In addition, despite receiving less funds, the council will be consulted more often by the government on issues of national importance, the minister pledged. He specifically asked for the council's advice on subjects such as the scope of Canada's space programme and methods of ensuring adequate support of university research and training of future researchers.

Although pleased that the minister has announced plans to consult the science council more often, officials are left wondering how they will carry out such requests with only half their current resources.

## Australians enforce sanctions

from Geoff Maslen

MELBOURNE

Australian higher education institutions have begun to apply bans on any dealings with South Africa, following increased pressure on the federal government for tougher sanctions against the regime.

Australia supported France's United Nations security council resolution proposing a range of voluntary measures against South Africa, including a ban on further investment. A wide range of unions in Australia have also indicated that they will be taking action against companies known to have links with South Africa.

The council of the Melbourne College of Advanced Education resolved last week to boycott products and equipment made in South Africa and to progressively eliminate any financial dealings with companies associated with that country.

The college operates on an Aus \$19 million a year budget and at any one time has Aus \$2 million invested in the short-term money market. Under the council ban, staff will be expected to avoid purchasing material produced in South Africa or made by firms with links to that country.

The college's business dealings will be restructured to discriminate against companies with ties to South Africa, although the college admits this will be almost impossible to enforce fully. The chairman of council, Mrs Joan Dwyer, said that the resolution calling for the bans was intended to show the college's abhorrence for apartheid and the manifest inequalities in South African education and society.

Elsewhere, the Council of the South Australian College of Advanced Education has also called for a South African boycott and students at Adelaide University have urged that institution to apply bans.

The Federation of Australian University Staff Associations and other groups representing academics have already adopted policies limiting dealings with South African firms or businesses with links to South Africa.

The general secretary of the federation two years ago had cut ties with a travel company owned by a South African, because of that company's substantial pineapple plantations in South Africa. It has also removed funds from Barclay's Bank because of its South African connections.

Several other Australian higher education institutions are also believed to be considering imposing bans on South African contacts.

## Hand for Bangladesh

from Charlotte Beyers

PALO ALTO

Whether or not 100 women in Bangladesh know it as they sew handicrafts and make fishing nets, they have friends across the world at Stanford University.

Students here have raised \$5,600 to help the women who want to learn to help themselves. "We're trying to avoid having them depend on outside sources continuously," says Mr Nazir Ahmad, a student at the Stanford Food Research Institute, and founder of SIDA, the Stanford International Development Organization. It now has chapters at more than 22 universities including Yale, Harvard, Princeton and Brown.

Born in Bangladesh, Mr Ahmad wants to educate American students and staff to the enormous problems facing developing countries.

Since its beginning in 1984, SIDA has sponsored three large-scale symposia. Harvard and Radcliffe hosted a symposium on Realistic Approaches to World Hunger. And both Stanford and Johns Hopkins have had recent conferences on international food crises and homelessness.



## Temps worry professors

The increasing numbers of temporary and part-time faculty hired to instruct freshmen and sophomore courses at American universities is causing concern, especially among professors of English.

According to Maxine Hairston, who heads the conference on college composition and communication of the National Council of Teachers of English, the trend is not only reducing the supply of new talent entering college teaching, but also affecting students' interest in studying the humanities.

Ms Hairston, who is a professor of English at the University of Texas, claims that well-qualified young teachers are being hired on short-term contracts at salaries which compel them to do part-time work elsewhere, and that many are leaving to take better paid jobs in industry. In 1980, the last year for which figures are available from the National Institute of Education, 41 per cent of college

faculty were employed on a part-time basis.

Students, she says, "quickly get the message that the department cares little about the large and diverse group of students in its lower division courses. Even students who have planned to major in English will be discouraged, and few will even consider a career teaching English in high school or college. As the influx of temporary and part-time faculty members has depressed faculty salaries, reduced status and value of a PhD in English and other areas in the humanities, the news has trickled down to high school students."

The problem arises from budget formulas which fund the labour-intensive freshman courses at lower levels than advanced courses. Ms Hairston wants this policy reversed, making it possible to staff them with regular faculty.

## Academics negotiate perks

from E. P. Brandon

KINGSTON

The academic staff union at the Mona campus of the University of the West Indies, in Jamaica, has negotiated a three-year pay freeze despite being offered an increase of some 10 per cent per year. Yet its members are not complaining.

Negotiations for the 1984/87 triennium began in earnest earlier this year with an offer that envisaged an increase of approximately 10 per cent a year. But for the first time, as a result of the recent restructuring with its increased local control of financial matters, the Jamaican campus was offered a substantial increase in non-taxable allowances. Since Jamaica's tax rates have hardly changed since 1977 the top rate of 57.5 per cent is now being charged on incomes of less than \$2,000 per annum (14,000 Jamaican dollars and above).

The union was able to shift the money allocated for the triennium into the maximum tax-free package acceptable to the Jamaican government, a 60/40 mix of taxable and non-taxable income. In so doing, Mona academics will now all enjoy a personal entertainment allowance averaging 2,000 Jamaican dollars a year as well as about twice that for travelling and choice of housing at 30 Jamaican dollars a month or a re-rental scheme at 30 per cent of salary.

These perks do little to improve the relative standing of the Mona campus either within the university or in the international marketplace (a professor's total package still only comes to less than £10,000, and less than a lecturer at the other campuses) but they represent a fairly substantial improvement.

The Jamaican government has promised on a number of occasions to reform the tax system.

After receiving much criticism for not going through the proper channels when presenting his grievances, Mr Vellu said that if he is now asked to step down from his post in the government, he would do so, "but nobody can stop me from talking and close my mouth".

On education and employment, Mr Vellu said his criticisms were not levelled directly at the government but at the middle level officials and administrators who were simply not implementing the government's policies "diligently and sincerely", policies which should meet the needs of all groups in society.

The problem in education begins long before higher education, said Samy Vellu. Almost 50 per cent of Indian primary school children receive instruction in Tamil language only. Facilities in the schools are poor and have seen no improvement in many years, especially in the rubber estates. The majority of Indian children drop out from school early, with only 6 per cent attending at the secondary level.

And only just over 2 per cent reach the final school leaving certificate level.

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## Unhappy lot of university women

The association has for many years wished to undertake research in a number of areas which are becoming increasingly important for society in general and the universities in particular. These include the status of women in the universities, representation of ethnic minorities and other underprivileged groups such as the disabled, and the working conditions of non-tenured academic staff including tutors, instructors and demonstrators.

In 1983 the association's council approved funding for a research project to be set up under the supervision of Margaret Wilson of Auckland University to show the position of women academics in New Zealand universities; examine some of the reasons for the present position of women; compare the New Zealand situation with similar recent studies in Australia and elsewhere; look at the feasibility of affirmative action programmes.

The final report is due for release in September/October. Preliminary figures confirm generally held views. For example, in recent years the proportion of full-time female university students has steadily increased. In 1963 female students were 24.6 per cent of the internal student population, by 1975 this figure had increased to 36.1 per cent and by 1983 to 43.9 per cent. Female students in 1983 represented 40.5 per cent of full-time and 58.8 per cent of part-time (including extramural) students.

It comes as no surprise, however, that the increasing number of women students has not led to any significant increase in the representation of women academic staff. In 1963 women academics represented 9.6 per cent of the academic staff. By 1983 this figure had only increased to 13.5 per cent with the greatest representation being in lowly-ranked positions.

The proportion of women to men in tenured or tenureable posts in 1983 was only 9.8 per cent. Of the academic women in New Zealand's universities 34.4 per cent are in non-tenured junior posts.

The survey confirms the association's suspicions that women get fewer jobs at our universities and when they do they are appointed at lower levels than men and face serious difficulties in gaining promotion. Helen Clark, MP, and an ex-academic, in a lecture on "The University and Women" delivered at Auckland University in June 1983 made the following remarks:

"The very structure of the academic career — as of other careers — plays a crucial role in blocking the advancement of women in the universities."

Issues such as paid maternity leave, the provision of adequate child care facilities on campus, job-sharing, permanent part-time employment and affirmative action programmes are now seen as pressing if the balance is to be rectified.

Margaret Wilson's final report is awaited with anticipation by a number of organizations including the Human Rights Commission. Appropriately enough, it will be released almost at the end of the United Nations Decade for Women — the association hopes that the universities will play their role in improving the lot of women in the next decade.

Rob Crozier

The author is executive secretary of the Association of University Teachers (New Zealand).

## Butchand the Crazylegs gang

The cast of characters sounds like a roll call for *Guns and Dolls*, and their cause — the raising of a million dollars — should gladden the heart of any university. But strange to tell, the University of Wisconsin is not enthusiastic about the forthcoming "Great Badger Sports Raffle" to be staged for its benefit. And it is certainly not amused.

The scheme is the brainchild of Palmer "Butch" Strickler, a retired sausage maker, who founded Butch's Badger Bologna Benefit, Inc. to boost Wisconsin's athletic budget. Mr Strickler proposed a raffle, with tickets selling at \$5 each, to be run under the supervision of the state Bingo Control Board. Prizes included a \$125,000 furnished house, a \$12,500 recreational vehicle, and a \$7,500 fishing boat.

The university's sports department, headed by Elroy "Crazylegs" Hirsch, was not averse to the scheme, but the reaction from the academic side of the campus was a lofty sniff. Irving Shain, chancellor of the Madison campus, instructed his athletics officials not to accept any proceeds from the raffle. The organizers said they would go ahead anyway and even threatened to sue the university on the grounds that state law forbade it to turn down donations. The affair escalated when reporters began to investigate the records of Wisconsin's athletics department. "Crazylegs" Hirsch, it transpired, had already done pretty



well out of Butch's Badger Bologna Benefit, Inc. He had not only been given a 27th sports cruiser but had been provided with \$12,140 to buy 57 sides and hindquarters of beef to distribute among himself and associates for "public relations purposes". In all, it was claimed, some \$200,000 had been spent last year alone on perks and gifts for athletics department staff and associates. So paid his staff less than similar institutions, and such small gifts were merely compensation.

## Job prospects improve for US graduates

Prospects are improving for job-hunting college students in the United States. A report by the College Placement Council shows that employment offers have increased by 4.9 per cent also up by between 3 and 5 per cent.

In a survey of 187 placement offices that there were 44,479 jobs offered between September 1 1984 and June 7 1985, compared with 42,393 offers in the same period the year before.

Engineering students continued to be the most sought-after, and the most highly paid. Graduates in petroleum engineering received the highest starting salary — an average of \$30,996 with \$28,428, and those with degrees in electrical engineering running third with \$27,396.

But there was also good news for liberal arts graduates, described by Judith Kayser, manager of statistical services for the council, as "a real bargain". They, too, were hired in greater numbers. "There seems to be a re-evaluation of the liberal arts," Ms Kayser said. "These students have analytical and communications skills, and are able to relate to the big picture."

They can relate one decision to another. Employers are recognizing this."

Female students did well. Their job offers increased by 10 per cent, compared to 3 per cent for the men. But there was an unhappy surprise for graduates in computer sciences, where starting salaries rose by a meagre 1.8 per cent to an average of \$24,984. At that, however, they were still well ahead of those with degrees in general social science.

Although the situation has improved, the council is disappointed both in terms of the numbers of jobs and the salaries offered. It is felt to be a carry-over from the recession of the early 1980s. "So many employers were adversely affected then," Ms Kayser said, "and the scars have not healed. Despite the economic expansion in the past two and a half years, we have not been able to shake the cautious attitude."

This may explain the one black spot in the report: an actual drop in the number of jobs offered to those with a master's degree in business administration.

## Körber prize announced

from Barbara von Ow

MUNICH

A West German and a Bulgarian research team will be the first to receive the new "promotion prize for European science" established by a German businessman last year.

The prize, worth DM2 million annually, is the latest brainchild of industrialist and patron Kurt A. Körber. His Körber Foundation set up in 1959 to finance a discussion forum for the problem of industrialized nations, spent some DM6 to 7 million annually to promote a variety of schemes.

The European science prize was announced by Körber on his 75th birthday last September as a complement to the Nobel prize. It will be awarded annually on September 7 on Körber's 76th birthday, according to a statement by the prize commission.

Some DM1.2 million of the prize money will go to a medical research team in Munich for work on therapeutic waves. A research team at the Institute of Metallurgy of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in Sofia will receive DM800,000.

## Scientists welcome Eureka move

from Donald Fields

HELSINKI

Scientific researchers in Norway, Sweden and Finland are both pleased and relieved that their respective countries have become involved in a French-inspired high technology scheme known as Eureka.

Sweden is devoting about 25 per cent of its annual gross domestic product to research and development while Norway and Finland are rapidly raising their shares from below 1 per cent. However, political considerations also weigh heavily in how they approach the scheme, which with plenty of give and take technological approach European cooperation of any kind.

Like Switzerland, Austria and Portugal, which are also joining on the Eureka bandwagon, all three are members of the European Free Trade Association — Finland is an associate. Norwegians voted in a referendum against the Common Market with neutrality precludes the Swedes and Finns from joining the EFTA. Sweden has nevertheless built up close cooperation with Brussels in ways that Finland, constantly looking over its shoulder at its Soviet neighbour, does not permit itself.

Indeed the Finns almost missed the Eureka bus entirely, apparently through a mixture of inebriant caution and official dithering. Only four days before the initial Eureka conference in Paris did they get themselves invited by the French — who had asked other EFTA countries along well before.

That Finland does not belong to the Council of Europe may have been one critical factor. Another could be Western fears that technology developed in connection with Eureka could seep through Finland.

The Conservative government in Norway, a founder-member of NATO, has distanced itself from Washington's Strategic Defense Initiative though a left-wing motion deploring all forms of "Star Wars" research, was not defeated in the Storting (Parliament). Sweden had no qualms in deciding that Eureka was compatible with neutrality.

Despite the political constraints, the Nordic countries obviously see European cooperation in Eureka as their best chance of countering competition from the pacemakers in advanced technology, Japan and the USA.

While they have much specialist expertise to offer, their resources are inadequate except when pooled with those of larger states. Nordic scientists are in the forefront in several of the fields covered by Eureka — notably biotechnology, microelectronics and data technology.

Assuming the project gets off the ground, a key question for higher education will be how much Eureka-related research will take place in universities.

## Room at the top after 31 years

Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's shake-up of the Soviet leadership has resulted in a change at the top of the higher education ministry for the first time in 31 years.

The director of Moscow's Mendeleev Institute of Chemical Technology, Mr Gennady Yegorin, has been named as the new minister of higher education and specialized secondary education. At 58, he is 20 years younger than his predecessor, Mr Vyacheslav Yelyutin (above), who had held the post since 1954.

Higher education has been accorded high priority in Mr Gorbachev's modernization programme. The appointment of a new minister from outside the state bureaucracy is a further indication of the desire for a new direction in higher education policy, stressing the importance of science and technology.

## Egyptian increase

The Egyptian prime minister, Mr Kamal Hassan, has announced that his government is to increase its funding for scientific research and called for greater use of research to solve economic and social problems.

Speaking to academics and scientists at the Egyptian Academy of Scientific Research and Technology in Cairo, Mr Hassan said that increased scientific research was crucial to effective economic and social development. Egypt is to increase funding to 1.2 per cent of the total national income and this figure will rise further in 1987 at the beginning of Egypt's second five year plan.

## Rules relaxed

The Indonesian government has relaxed restrictions on students wishing to study abroad as its universities and colleges have failed to come anywhere near meeting the demand for higher education in the country.

Indonesia has 33 state universities and 11 teacher training colleges, but they could only provide 90,000 places for the 500,000 students who applied for higher education courses this year. As a result there was a rush for places in the country's open university and private higher education institutions, besides overseas courses. In the past government restrictions meant that students wishing to study overseas had to apply to the education and culture ministry, and the number of applications granted was limited, but now students need only inform the ministry of their intentions.

## Student unions hit

The Bangladesh government has ordered all student unions and halls of residence in the country's six universities to be dissolved under martial law regulations. Chief martial law administrator, H. M. Ershad, said all student union officials would cease to hold office immediately.

The government made the decision because it believes the recent turmoil in the country's universities have been caused by political activities within the student unions. All six universities have been closed and political activities banned since March 1, when martial law was reimposed.



## Freedom to tune in to a world of language



Mr Tony Warden, language laboratory manager, and the satellite dish at Reading University

archive of material ranging from feature films and literary programmes to recordings of important political events, such as official announcements and parades. The Transmissions are even useful for teaching first-year students, learning Russian from scratch.

As Mr Warden points out, the whole project is very much in its infancy and not without substantial difficulties. Problems of copyright and payment of subscription fees have not been solved, which leads to certain signals being scrambled. Decoders then have to be hired from the television company concerned, which adds an element of bureaucratic entanglement to the affair.

But the potential is enormous. In Europe alone, encouraged by the freedom of information provisions in the Treaty of Rome, the future seems to lie with consortia such as TVS (La Television Francophone par Satellite), which transmits collections of French, Belgian and Swiss programmes.

Dr Chris Wagstaff, lecturer in Italian studies, sees the limitations as well as the advantages of the new development. "It is certainly a very different matter from listening to the radio - the reception is much clearer for a start, which is the last thing you would have imagined," he said. "But there is still considerable debate as to how useful passive acquisition is in the learning of a second language. The advantages are obviously that everything is up to

date, but we are still looking at no more than a very valuable tool. Where the study of foreign languages can make a more considerable impact, however, is in the new field of media studies, where Reading is equally well placed to make a contribution.

The university already runs a course in Italian cinema and language studies, a subject which can also be studied in conjunction with linguistic typography and graphic communication course. Miss Coleman, course a familiar theme in the education world of the United States but similar studies in European countries are rare.

"A study of the European and would appear to be totally different from anything being done anywhere else at present," says Dr Wagstaff. "The overwhelming problems of language and access have always been difficult, but that could all change. Once again, copyright problems loom, but if a code was established for academic studies, satellite education could open up entirely new fields of research."

"One could imagine computer work on, say, Italian and German soap operas, who watches them, they are made and so on. Very often, the burning issues of a country are reflected in these, and prove very interesting areas of study."

Peter Aspin

## Maggie Richards on a successful alternative to the A level route

### How Coventry made access pay

Wendy is a Malaysian student of 22, determined to study law. Her command of English is excellent, her academic record impressive - but it is not recognized by British institutions for entry into higher education.

Zainal is a Malay, aged 23. His examination successes include eight O levels and technical qualifications in architecture. He wishes to study the subject at degree level but his grasp of English has been insufficient to merit a place.

Both have problems common to many overseas students this summer who will apply and be rejected by polytechnics and universities throughout Britain. Yet both are now poised to enter the system. Wendy has a place at university. Zainal has been accepted by a polytechnic.

Their entries have resulted from a year of study on a novel access course which has drawn on the strengths of three separate sectors of post-school education to provide an alternative to the A level route.

The scheme has been functioning as a pilot project for two years at Coventry, under the umbrella of the Coventry consortium - an amalgamation of further and higher education institutions in the West Midlands, originally established to provide updating programmes for local industry.

Under the academic supervision of Warwick University, the scheme embraces three colleges of further education, utilizing teaching skills in the further education sector and combining them with teaching materials derived extensively from Open University foundation courses.

Warwick's higher education foundation programme also differs from other access courses in its attempt to be national, directing students to the institutions best suited to their individual needs rather than regarding them as academic fodder.

Two other facets have been linked into the programme this summer: an overseas marketing system designed to promote the British system as extensively as possible abroad, and a counselling service to give guidance to students entering the scheme.

Some years ago Warwick considered an on-campus access course for overseas students but encountered opposition from its own academic staff, who were reticent - to say the least - about embarking on work at such a level.

From closer involvement with the further education sector through connections with the Coventry consortium, the idea of an access course taught by the colleges emerged. In recognizing that not all students would want to progress to higher education in the immediate vicinity, Warwick then set about determining what validation of its courses could be offered as an

alternative to A level - deemed appropriate for students who would not only be handicapped by language difficulties, but who also had not been immersed in the British education system since childhood.

The University materials at foundation level seemed to provide the obvious solution. They also offered the added advantage of recognition by almost every academic institution in the country.

To align the materials with the academic year (the Open University operates a calendar year) Warwick has organized a system whereby its own staff will set papers for examinations in June, which will be externally assessed by OU staff.

The programme is being aimed principally at students for whom English is a second language, so particular strong emphasis is being placed on English language in the curriculum.

Courses are designed on an interdisciplinary basis to give the student as broad an introduction to potential openings within the system as possible. Some specialized areas have been excluded - medicine and graphic art are prime examples. The pattern of provision is determined purely by market factors: the programme will provide courses according to the demands of students expressed in their letters of application.

So far this summer the university has received more than 100 applications, dividing into six main areas of study: law, social sciences, engineering, business studies and economics, social administration and a heterogeneous science group.

Science and engineering courses will be taught at Coventry technical college, where students will follow either the OU science foundation course or, as the OU science foundation programme, elements of a second-level technology course combined with components of the OU mathematics foundation material.

Other students will be divided between two colleges of further education. For students taking law, part of the course will involve joining first year students at Warwick on one day a week for tuition. Business studies students will receive additional help with mathematics, geared to their future study requirements.

The two pilot projects undertaken so far have proved useful in highlighting some problem areas, and helping further education lecturers tutoring the courses to become acclimatized to the extensive use of OU materials.

One significant feature has been the extent to which overseas students, unaccustomed to British customs and traditions, have found the OU television programmes of immense value.



Henley College course tutor Mr Terry Rees with two of the Malay students.

Visual aids have also been useful in pinpointing references taken for granted in Britain - to institutions such as "Westminster" and "Whitehall".

Counselling has proved an essential feature of the pilot projects, and forms of crucial element of the new programme. Soon after their arrival students receive a talk on the structure of British higher education.

One of the first aims is to make clear the plethora of opportunities available to them. Another intention is to eliminate some basic misconceptions - staff have discovered demands to study computer science in fact disguise a desire to look at business applications, rather than advanced construction techniques.

A third goal is to extract from each student a profile of non-academic expertise, experience over the two pilot projects has shown that many students completing application forms fail to detail relevant items such as work experience.

From the information collected, a full profile of each student is compiled. Students are then encouraged to sift through prospectus materials and select options.

From the options and after further discussions, college staff begin arranging interviews with institutions. In advance of interviews each institution will receive a full profile and college assessment of the student.

In addition to academic counselling, social activities are arranged for the students throughout their stay on the programme, including outings to familiarize them with the British environment. While on the programme, each

student is registered not only with the college, but also as an associate member of Warwick university entitled to use all campus facilities.

Until now students have come via Warwick's own admissions scheme. But from this summer Warwick is going into partnership with other major institutions in the system, universities such as Nottingham, Liverpool and East Anglia, and from the other side of the binary line, Coventry and Birmingham polytechnics.

This network will feed students into the programme if their qualifications or A level results are not up to expectations. Students completing the programme will be encouraged to look first to institutions within the network for degree courses, before making their choices.

"We are happy to accept students on the basis that they will come to us if their results are not up to expectation, and return to the institution to follow their chosen degree course on satisfactory completion of our programme," explained Warwick's senior assistant registrar Mr David Warner.

Basing the programme on the three further education colleges currently in use, Warwick estimates being able to accommodate up to 500 students per year. But another four colleges within the Coventry consortium have indicated willingness to join the scheme if demand increases.

The programme now finds itself in direct competition with the types of sub-degree courses offered by the institutions of other Western nations, notably the United States. Three staff from Warwick have been on a canvassing mission this year to the Middle and Far East, promoting both the programme and the university.

To expand on these activities Warwick has gone to the private sector for aid, enlisting the help of the Pitman organization, which specializes in business, secretarial and language tuition, and has an extensive network of schools and agencies operating overseas.

It is hoped many Pitman students will be guided on from their studies at basic and intermediate levels to the Warwick programme. The Pitman agencies overseas will receive a ten per cent commission for every student enrolled.

Students enrolling in 1985 will be charged a flat fee of £3,150 for their tuition, the equivalent of a first year arts or social sciences degree course. The university estimates the full cost, including the price of accommodation, will be in the region of £5,700.

Both Warwick and Pitman staff recruiting abroad have encountered an enormous amount of interest in what Britain's higher education system has to offer.

"It is really a matter of explaining how the British higher education system functions, in comparison to the American model. In countries such as Korea and Thailand there has up to now been no real conception of our system," said Mr Warner.

"Everybody regards British higher education as the summit of achievement. Its standards are incomparably the best in the world, but it is also regarded as so difficult to enter that reluctantly people go elsewhere."

Urm Diaband

## Bleeper philosophers

Britain should now join the US in fostering academic enterprise to deal with medical dilemmas says Jon Turney



We are already in the age of rationing for patients on dialysis machines

Oxford speakers recalled that the US is the home of "defensive medicine" - one eye on the patient and one on the lawyers. Certainly, the introduction of procedures for informed consent for many procedures has more to do with legal protection for the doctor than genuine attempt to make sure the sick next.

Other forces shaping the field, more familiar in Europe, are the power of new technology to throw up a need for new kinds of decisions - the demands of the media for comment on medical extravaganzas like the artificial heart. Dan Callahan felt the academics had to work hard to keep the field serious "in the face of the forces which want to turn it into soap opera and high drama".

So the Hastings centre tries to strike a balance between research and education, between consulting for government and media commentary, and looking. And while the current portfolio of research includes old media staples, artificial organs and abortion and new ones like AIDS, there are also less visible projects on ageing, rehabilitation and care of the chronically ill.

Within the set of concerns, three themes vie for the spotlight in health care. For some, bioethics is chiefly a meditation on high technology medicine. Yet others stress the centrality of the doctor-patient relationship in any

map of the field. As Carol Levine of Hastings put it: "The day to day encounters between ordinary doctors and ordinary patients are at the heart of biomedical ethics".

Still others see allocation of resources as the overarching theme, so welfare. This is generally confined to three themes interact. In particular, use of particular technologies tend to turn on individual lives - death is generally heart transplant.

Dr Caplan argued strongly against a popular in the United States - that rationing of the more expensive goods is becoming inevitable as costs soar on climbing. He saw a new enthusiasm for "lifeboat ethics" in health philosophers and theologians to help choose who to throw out.

It was true that new technologies could present enormous costs. The recipients of an experimental artificial heart, alive for three months came to standard diagnostic equipment like cost \$3 million apiece.

Caplan believed there was still enough in the system to pay for such things, if desired - and the move to local rationing by doctors themselves was the worst way to go. "The most

unethical course would be to throw some people over the side when we're not in a lifeboat," he said.

The British response was that we were already in the age of rationing, and several speakers cited the tacit patients over \$5 for long-term support on kidney machines. Curiously, this is also the age of cut-off for heart transplants in the US, although no one even so, Dr Caplan's argument sounded to some like an attempt to avoid the problems of selection, rather than a persuasive route to doing away with them.

The kidney dialysis example points up some of the main differences between Britain and the US in the way machines are managed. When kidney States, there was widespread criticism set up in some hospitals to select patients. This was one of the main reasons the Government decided to underwrite the costs of dialysis treatment for all those in need.

In Britain, where rationing by queuing has become essential to operation of the National Health Service, the shortage in kidney machines is generally met by not referring some patients to hospital at all. They simply don't know what they are missing.

In spite of our national obsession with the Health Service, practices like this rarely make the news. And there is little evidence that it troubles many of

lawyers and teachers with training in philosophy. Dr Gillon emphasized they had to avoid prescriptions for particular cases, and must win the confidence of other clinical teachers by providing extra to offer which would not be provided by an intelligent layman.

Dr Gillon said Britain should open up its medical schools to lawyers and philosophers to help in medical ethics so they could get some clinical experience. But even though the first master's courses are now appearing in this country, Britain is a long way from establishing the cadre of bioethicists who now flourish in the US.

There may be some advantages in this. One American speaker feared the advent of a new "technocracy of clinicians". But the ever sharper debate on resources and the continuing development of technology may soon characterize the British tradition. It is notable that several speakers report on technologies for manipulating human embryos suggested out of the report was the lack of systematic thinking about the issues earlier on. If British medical ethics is unlikely ever to grow into the sort of enterprise now seen in the US, we could still do one or two well-funded think tanks. In the longer term, as Daniel Callahan put it, the problem is to decide "what kind of society or moral culture do we want medicine to create for us?"

A new guide to access courses has just been published by the University of Lancaster - the first time such courses, whose recent growth has been one of the most spectacular features of adult education, have been catalogued.

A Survey of Access Courses in England by Susan Lucas, administrative officer in Lancaster's department of education, and research assistant Peter Ward, can be obtained from Lancaster for £3. It contains details of "second chance" courses offered by 83 separate institutions in England.

The book begins by defining what constitutes an "access course". Mention them to most people, Susan Lucas says, and they'll immediately think of the courses for Afro-Caribbean teachers at the Polytechnic of North London. She felt the need for a guide to the point where people may reenter education after a period out of it.

The courses listed are run by colleges of further education and similar institutions, and can lead on to higher education at either university or polytechnic. A number have formal links with universities and polytechnics in the regions - either through "feeder" arrangements by which the access course acts as a direct qualification for the degree, or through "open college" federations.

The entry for each course contains its title, name and address of the coordinator, a description of the origins and purposes of the scheme, entry qualifications, the course structure, assessment arrangements and the progress of former students who have gone on to higher education.

Some Lancaster 60 from it will be used by

## Help from the FE student's flexible friend

further education colleges who are interested in providing their own courses. While there's a common theme they'll find a number of possible models.

"Careers advisers may also be interested. Although they concentrate largely on 16 to 19-year-olds the rise in unemployment means they're having to spend more time now dealing with the needs and problems of older people."

"And admissions tutors in universities should find it is valuable for assessing the qualifications of people who've only done access courses before they've applied. This is why we've devoted a lot of space to assessment - that sort of information other institutions will be looking for."

In spite of the diversity of courses and institutions, she sees a degree of commonality: "This may be because one or two courses have served as a model for the others, though I'm not certain about that. There is a strong emphasis on communications skills, numeracy and literacy, and more stress on the development of study techniques than on content. The aim is to develop skills which can be applied."

The humanities, social sciences, teaching and social work account for the majority of courses: "There's minimal provision in information technology, engineering and the sciences generally. There's a desire to provide courses, but the obstacles are enormous. All these courses need

plate the daunting thought of taking up physics at 24 or 34 to realize why such courses are hard to fill.

"There's the same problem with languages, pure art and music. They're all sequential subjects - it's impossible for someone to take up French and in a year or two be on a level with someone who's gone all the way through school, finishing with a B grade A level."

At Lancaster Sue Lucas is at the centre of a very strong area, but she says: "I can look at the map of England and see areas with very little - East Anglia, parts of the South West and the Midlands."

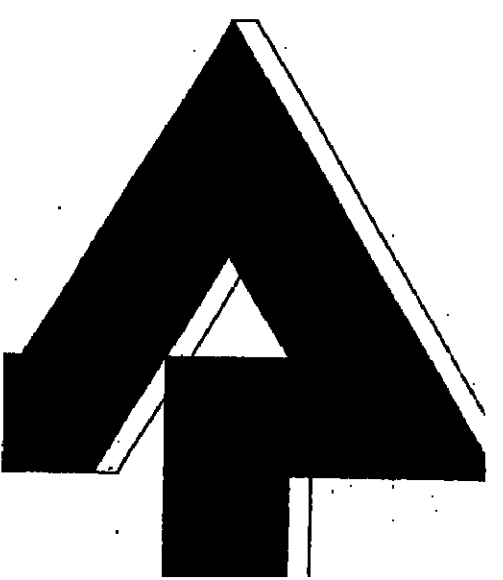
"Like all non-statutory provision it is very much dependent on the attitude of the LEAs and colleges. Very often getting courses started depends on one person in an authority or a college willing to push hard for it."

She expects access courses to go on growing, and it does seem unlikely that there'll be any moderating of the demand caused by educational disadvantage and unemployment.

"The only thing that can stop it growing is financial problems," says Sue Lucas, who sees possible reasons of enlightened self-interest driving institutions of higher and further education into backing access projects. "By the end of the 1980s quite a lot of them might be struggling for students and will welcome more mature candidates to keep their rolls up."

## A SURVEY OF ACCESS COURSES IN ENGLAND

Edited by Susan Lucas and Peter Ward





# The quackademics

Trade in bogus qualifications is multiplying at an alarming rate, often beyond the power of the Fraud Squad. Adriana Caudrey investigates

Psst—wanna buy a degree?



A degree from an established academic institution. Then the crime is one of forgery. If, however, someone sets up a pseudo-university, with himself as self-appointed professor, and dishes out trumped-up qualifications, he is not necessarily breaking the law.

According to Inspector Moffat every case is different and tends to rest upon whether or not it can be proved that the salesman induced a customer to part with money by "specific misrepresentation", such as stating that his awards were approved by the Council for National Academic Awards.

One celebrated example is that of the head of one dubious "university" who claimed in his literature that he had been granted a Royal Charter. All British universities need this if they are to be officially recognized. However, Nigerian prince and is therefore meaningless in this country. But technically this common had covered himself.

According to Inspector Moffat the person who submits a spurious qualification at an interview is more likely to face prosecution than the person who sells it. "If I invented Sunbury then went to a prospective employer and said I had a BSc from Sunbury, and if there was no middle person involved (someone who makes and sells degrees), in those circumstances it could be argued I had committed an offence."

"I would have to prove that it was a legitimate organization and issue BScs as part of my normal business." In other words, if you issue yourself with a paper qualification on a one-off basis you may be charged with seeking to obtain goods or services - in this case a job - by deception, precisely because you do not run a business issuing degrees.

"If you use a middle person to obtain your degree, and he can argue that he runs a university, because he issues degrees as a normal part of his business - although it is perhaps arguable whether it is up to university standards - then you would not be committing an offence unless you actually told lies." It is particularly difficult to take

sanctions against people who run degree mills because there is no legal definition of a university, nor of a degree. Therefore the exercise becomes one of Alice-in-Wonderland style logic.

Under company law people are banned from setting up businesses which include in their titles the word "university" unless they have special permission from the Education Secretary. However, this provision in law tends not to be invoked, and if it were, it would only result in a court order to change the name. Failure to observe this could result in a fine for breach of a court order.

Inspector Moffat wants to see introduced a law which would require anyone running a non-accredited institution to state on his degree certificate that the qualification was not issued by a recognized institution. "We would like legislation to be introduced which would require degree mill merchants out of the market. If they decided to flout the law they would have to charge higher prices for their degrees to cover the costs of possible fines, and this would eventually price them out of the market." He anticipates a fine of £1,000 for the offence.

A firm of white collar crime investigators has become increasingly concerned about the growth of academic fraud. Network Security Management has recently brought out a 30-page report, entitled *Pre-employment Screening and Degree Mills*. One of its two authors, consultant Martin Samuels, is worried at the extent to which people are obtaining jobs fraudulently, frequently assisted by the availability of under-the-counter degrees.

He said: "In the current environment jobs are highly competitive, and selection is based on qualifications people present on paper. We'll see a lot more of this."

He is particularly concerned about the increased trade in computer science qualifications. He suspects that the trend is well-established in the United States, and is just starting in Britain. "People are applying for jobs with bogus computer science degrees. We don't want unqualified people running around data processing departments."

His firm's investigation of one London degree mill showed that it was one of the few that had a computer science degree. The computer science degree, Mr Samuels is particularly disturbed by, because it is not sufficiently zealous in checking out the credentials of prospective employees. Employers should contact the Council's office to find out whether or not an institution is a valid one.

When asked by one academic researcher whether or not they had been duped by a student tendering a spurious qualification, one university answered: "We are always very careful over the acceptance of a student with unfamiliar qualifications and I do not think we have been misled by spurious qualifications. Very occasionally a candidate has falsely claimed qualifications which he does not have and a such cases appropriate action is taken."

Another university revealed: "In regard to degree mills in general we have been plagued for about 15 years by a particular individual operating from a private house about 20 miles away under various titles. The previous registrar took legal advice in the early 1970s and was informed there was nothing we could do."

It is not only the absence of legislation which allows degree mills to flourish. They are also able to avoid educational inspections. Until the beginning of the 1980s the Department of Education and Science used to inspect private sector higher education establishments, but it dropped the exercise as part of cost-cutting.

Currently the only hope of dishing out the good from the bad in private sector higher education is being provided by the recently founded British Accreditation Council for Independent Further and Higher Education. The aim of this body is so much to uncover dubious institutions as to accredit worthy ones. It is providing for the private sector what the CNA provides for the public sector. Its secretary, David Parry, pointed out that the council would accredit institutions on the basis of positive discrimination. Colleges which elected to have an inspection and met the council's standards would be entered on its list of accredited colleges. Those which did not come forward or were found to be wanting would not get a mention.

Mr Parry emphasized that the council had just drawn up its first list, and it would be another two years before it could be regarded as definitive. The council has 100 inspectors, most of whom are former HMIAs, or former college principals, and polytechnic directors. Mr Parry said: "If our inspectors are going to an institution that offers its own award, we ask them to look at the qualifications of the staff, to recognize universities or recognized professional awards? Do the courses? Is employment after their courses? Are the courses monitored by external examiners? We seek points of reference external to the college."

Mr Parry hopes that the existence of a list of establishments which have met these requirements, will counter the reputation of those which are absent from the list. He said one of his prime objectives was to show that there are excellent colleges in the private sector.

In time he hopes that if a college advertises that it is accredited by the council this will testify to its reputation. He emphasized that his body sets high standards, which might exceed those that the Government might specify if it introduced legislation to distinguish accredited establishments from non-accredited.

He said: "At times we might require an institution to amend its literature to reflect more accurately what we have there. If an institution offered a degree under the charter of an overseas university, we would want them to include a specific statement to that effect." Some independent institutions have fallen foul of the Advertising Standards Authority.

Following a complaint to the authority from the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals, Somerset Independent University was told to alter a paragraph in its prospectus, which had stated its "approach to degree programmes is innovative and official recognition has yet to be received". The authority said this should be changed to read: "Somerset University was not established by Royal Charter and therefore official recognition has yet to be sought."

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The group were charged with maintaining the National Association of Open Campus Colleges and four accrediting agencies all using some variant of the "Mid-Western States Accrediting Agency" in order to further their credibility.

Patrick McQuaid

## In the concluding part of our series on demography Andrew Hinde charts the influence of the Neo-Malthusians on Victorian attitudes to birth control

# To have and have not



This Liverpool fish hawk and his wife had a family of 11 children. In the days before the fertility transition, large families like this had several economic advantages—the children contributed to the household income, and the older ones could act as child-minders for their younger brothers and sisters, enabling the mother to work. The fish-hawker's family is

exceptional in one respect—none of his children died in infancy or childhood. In many late-19th century families, one child in three or four did not survive until its fifth birthday. Right, Annie Besant, freethinker and birth-controller, whose trial (with Charles Bradlaugh) in 1877 was an important landmark in the spread of birth control ideas.

in "human desires and values" produced the motivation to use this knowledge. Advances in birth control technology, while ultimately rendering contraception a good deal easier, are seen as secondary to the structural changes which were the primary cause of the fertility transition.

Two important developments in late-19th century England seem to support the innovation hypothesis. The first involved technological advances made in the manufacture of the condom. Rubber was first vulcanized during the 1840s, and the process was applied to condom manufacture in the 1870s. In the 1880s the first "seamless" condom was made, and barbers' shops and other "urgent" stores began to stock a wider variety of sizes.

The second event was the trial in 1877 of Charles Bradlaugh and Annie Besant. Bradlaugh and Besant organised the reprinting and distribution of a pamphlet first published in the USA in the 1830s called *The Fruits of Philosophy*, or the private companion of young married people, written by a Massachusetts doctor, Charles Knowlton.

This pamphlet recommended a number of methods of birth control, including douching with solutions of "astringent vegetables" (such as white oak bark, hemlock bark, red rose leaves, green tea, and) raspberry leaves or roots. It regarded vinegar as "quite effectual". The police were informed before the pamphlet was distributed, and Bradlaugh and Besant were subsequently arrested and tried for publishing obscene literature.

The effects of the trial on the public mind were great indeed. The record of the court proceedings was published in the leading newspapers and, more significantly, sales of *The Fruits of Philosophy* rocketed. Before the trial, they had averaged 700 a year. In the three months during and after the trial, 125,000 were bought, and in the three and a half years afterwards, 185,000.

The trial also led directly to the formation of the Malthusian League, the first organisation in England dedicated to advocating the practice of birth control. The League's name, taken from Thomas Robert Malthus, whose *Essay on the Principle of Population* had first been published in 1798, was somewhat misleading, since Malthus had advocated celibacy and continence, or "prudential restraint" as a means of preventing population growth outstripping the food supply, whereas the League saw celibacy and "sexual deprivation" as the causes of vice, prostitution and even insanity, and therefore suggested the use of contraceptives as the solution to the population problem (especially for poor couples with large families). This view became known as "Neo-Malthusianism".

According to the "adjustment" hypothesis, birth control is not a new invention; couples have, from time immemorial, known how to control fertility. It was only in the late 19th century, however, that social and economic changes created a demand for birth control.

The Malthusian League played in hastening the decline of fertility. Although the league remained active from its foundation in 1877 until 1927, and maintained the publication of a journal, *The Malthusian*, until after the First World War, its membership never rose above 1,200. It did not publish information about contraceptive techniques, but recommended works published elsewhere, the most influential of which were Annie Besant's *The Law of Population* (1877), and Henry Allbutt's *The Wife's Handbook* (1886).

The conclusion that the increased circulation of Knowlton's pamphlet and the increased awareness of birth control techniques, were primary causes of the fertility transition would be too hasty. Knowledge of birth control was probably more widespread in 19th-century England than at first appears.

As early as 1823, Francis Place wrote and distributed three handbills, entitled *To the Married of both Sexes*, *To the Married of both Sexes*, and *To the Married of both Sexes*. These handbills, entitled *To the Married of both Sexes*, *To the Married of both Sexes*, and *To the Married of both Sexes*, were distributed in the 1820s and 1830s.

Three years later, Richard Carlile's *Every Woman's Book*, or *What is Love?* enjoyed a large circulation, and in 1854 Dr George Drysdale published his *Elements of Social Science*, in which he recommended douching in tepid water, and a method similar to that known today as the rhythm method. Drysdale did not think much of the condom which, he said, induced enjoyment and even produced impotence. Condoms had been available for many years before the mid-19th century, although their earliest use in England was as a means of preventing sexually transmitted diseases, rather than to prevent conceptions.

It seems, therefore, that a number of contraceptive methods were available to the English public long before the birth rate began to fall. Of course, many of these were primitive and unreliable. In the last resort, there were two methods certain to succeed: abortion and abstinence from sexual intercourse.

Abortions, though made illegal in 1803, were available clandestinely throughout the 19th century. Abstinence is thought to have been socially unacceptable, and was rarely practiced. The spirit of self-help, part of the capitalist and individualist mentality promulgated, for example, by the architects of the New Poor Law, may also have played a part, in that it fostered greater ambition on the part of the poor to improve their lot.

responsible for the decline in fertility in certain regions of France, which began as early as the revolution.

The innovation hypothesis does not wholly explain the onset of the fertility transition in England. We must therefore ask how a motivation to have fewer children might have originated.

Demographers have usually looked to economic and social changes for the answer to this question. A host of theories relating the fertility transition to concomitant changes in the economy and society has been proposed. The project being carried out at the University of Sheffield under the guidance of Dr Robert Woods has the aim of assessing these theories in relation to the decline of fertility in England prior to the First World War. The results so far suggest that the motivation to control fertility may have emerged in several ways.

First, there was a change in the economic value of children to their parents. During much of the 19th century, it was common for children to be sent out to work at an early age (in many cases before they were 10). Restrictions on child labour, which began in the textile mills and spread to other sectors of the economy, were reinforced by the 1870s Education Act, which made elementary education compulsory and further reduced the earning potential of children. Moreover, the education was not free. Children, gradually became an economic burden upon their parents instead of an asset.

Second, it has been shown by Professor Banks that during the 1860s and 1870s middle class incomes were not rising as fast as those of other classes, especially the upper working classes. The cost of bringing up their children according to middle-class ideals was, therefore, proving increasingly burdensome. Their solution was simply, to have fewer children and adopt birth control. Dr Christopher Smith has recently shown that in Sheffield the lower middle class—the social group most vulnerable to economic pressure—was the one pioneering fertility control.

Third, social changes were occurring in the relationship between man and wife: wives were gradually gaining more influence over household decision-making. As Laura's mother put it in *Flora Thompson's Lark Rise to Candleford*: "If they knew what it meant to carry and bear and bring up a child themselves, they wouldn't expect the woman to be in a hurry to have a second or third now they've got a say in the matter."

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Opposition to the birth control movement declined after 1818, but it was not until the establishment of birth control clinics by Maria Stopes and the introduction of the first formal courses in birth control for physicians by the Royal Institute of Public Health (in 1930) that, in the words of R. A. Soloway, "the walls of the citadel fell". By then, though, the fertility transition in England and Wales was almost complete.

offspring, upon whom more care could be lavished and who could be given a better start in life, may thus have become a more attractive proposition than numerous progeny condemned to a childhood of poverty.

Thus both the innovation and the adjustment hypotheses may be tenable in an explanation of the decline of fertility in late-19th and early-20th century England. The adoption of birth control was in part the consequence of increasing economic and social pressures upon large families. The strength of these pressures, particularly in the case of the middle classes, is emphasised by the spread of fertility control despite considerable hostility towards the use of contraception.

Probably the most vociferous opposition came from the medical profession. From the mid-19th century until the First World War, doctors like C. H. F. Routh, senior physician to the Samaritan Hospital for Women and Children, issued dark threats about the consequences of using contraceptive devices.

These included sterility, nymphomania and cancer for women, and amnesia and "cardiac palpitations" for men. Those few doctors who advocated birth control, such as Henry Allbutt, the Leeds physician who wrote *The Wife's Handbook*, were unceremoniously struck off the medical register.

The Church, which initially showed remarkably little interest in debates about birth control (possibly because of a reluctance to be heard discussing matters that were considered obscene), came into the open during the 1890s. Prominent opponents of contraception included William Boyd Carpenter, Bishop of Ripon (who had 11 children) and the bachelor Bishop of London, Arthur Foley Winnington-Ingram. Eventually, the 1908 Lambeth Conference passed several resolutions against birth control both on scriptural grounds and because it subverted the Christian ideal of marriage.

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The author is Junior research fellow in the department of Geography at the University of Sheffield.

## Cracking down on credentials—the American offensive

The most extensive academic black economy is to be found in the United States, where the Federal Bureau of Investigation has launched a successful offensive against diploma mills. Government agents have been aware of the trade in spurious credentials for 30 years or more but, as in Britain, they have been hampered by the absence of laws on academic fraud in most states.

In February, however, the FBI made a significant breakthrough with a successful prosecution of the head of a counterfeit enterprise, which had supplied some 2,500 fraudulent degrees, diplomas and licences. That case was followed by a spate of further prosecutions.

In the space of one week, federal authorities took action against the operators of 25 diploma mills throughout the United States and disclosed a scheme at the University of Southern California in which some 30 individuals had programmed themselves academic transcripts through the system computer.

In North Carolina, seven mail-order scholars each faced a \$1-count indictment charging concealment of the group maintained a nationwide diploma mill network and issued fraudulent credentials—including degrees, transcripts, certificates, employment references and class rings—to an estimated 3,000 individuals.

According to the indictments, the group at one point boasted of having 20,000 "graduates" scattered throughout the world. Agents with the names of 3,000 clients and dismissed the larger figure as part of the organization's promotional strategy.

Under a holding company called the Disciples of Truth, Inc., the group was alleged to have operated 22 different colleges, accrediting agencies, vocational guidance centres, divinity schools and a jewellery firm. Under separate corporation correspondence schools—the Northwest College of Allied Science and the Southwest University.

The chairman of the board of trustees and the director of admissions for Southwestern University Utah, argued that their operating licence should by local detectives and the FBI. Within hours, Springfield, Missouri, had rounded up their confederates.

Investigations are now under way into the activities of some 14 adjunct faculty members. All affiliates, says the FBI.

While those schools are fictitious and their degrees worthless, authorities also unveiled a conspiracy at the University of Southern California, where falsified degrees and transcripts were being peddled for as much as \$25,000 each. Police federal drug administration in Louisville, Kentucky, Sources report of a scheme linking cocaine trafficking to academic counterfeiting.

An employee in the university records office was sucked and investigations began into the activities of some 30 students. Sources say the probe has focused mainly on foreign students.

In a third, separate matter, an Oregon man pleaded guilty to selling forged diplomas to some 2,300 persons—including 12 British subjects.

In the North Carolina case, special agents with headquarters of the Disciples of Truth, Inc. in 1982 a string of diploma mills since shut down.

The group were charged with maintaining the National Association of Open Campus Colleges and four accrediting agencies all using some variant of the "Mid-Western States Accrediting Agency" in order to further their credibility.

Patrick McQuaid



# Bernard Crick



## Portraits of public men and private functions

Historian and political writers have concerned themselves with two modes of controlling arbitrary power: the first is to put power against power, checks and balances, defence or even rebellion; and the second is law, reason, persuasion — some might add prayer. But there is a third mode, much practised by people under absolutism, or even in free regimes when there is no immediate prospect of changing an unpopular government: satire. "The laughter of free men" cuts the pompous down to size, shows the Emperor to have no clothes, or only foolish clothes.

Written satire is the most famous and most studied; but the printed word has its special dangers. More common, because less easy to stop, is the political joke. "I saw a strange sight," the Hitler, Goebbels and Goering walking down the Unter den Linden. Hitler looked real neat, Goebbels has his mouth shut and Goering had a woman on his arm. "They cheer ordinary people in dark times. There's going to be a two party system." "What's the use? One's bad enough." "Etc. This will soon all become a matter of pure scholarship, for a professor at the Hebrew University and an Oxford don have boxes and boxes of card-files, each card containing a political joke, cross-indexed by nation and subject matter."

Somewhere between the written and the oral, both in degree of danger and size of circulation, is pictorial satire, political caricature. These thoughts are prompted by a unique private view I enjoyed recently of the Victoria and Albert's exhibition *English Caricature: 1620 to the Present*. This reaches us from the Yale Center for British Art, National Gallery of Canada, so there are many unfamiliar items. It closes at the end of the month, but if you miss it, the catalogue (£6.95) is excellent value both as scholarship and printing, a book to treasure.

Regular readers of this column (like Professor D. Cameron Watt) may remember that my attempt to review Tom Stoppard's play *The Real Thing* was mildly impeded by being thrown out of the theatre at the interval by the manager and four minions. The other Friday was rather different. To my utter astonishment, as if the laws of gravity had failed or as if "The End of Empire" had ended, I found the V and A closed. I realized that I was at last a Sunday knows their response to the cuts. Never on Fridays. There is nothing more closed than a closed museum. (Could universities follow this practice?) Booked on the sleeper, I persuaded the press officer to open a side gate and let me in (I've known I was locked in the National Library of morning flight).

From Italian origins and a baroque style of allegory, somehow a golden age of the political cartoon arose in England in the 18th and early 19th centuries, first caricatures of politicians and then more and more free and grotesque line-drawing. Hogarth was a thought equal to Defoe and Swift, were "caricatures". Rowlandson and Gillray, however, had no such inhibitions, they were both professional and prolific caricaturists.

As with literary satire, I suspect that mid-eighteenth-century England had just that right balance of public liberty and open privilege and tolerance to stimulate satire. Mostly the prints appealed to the city middle class, as Johnson's new readership as it were,

against the aristocracy; but some are thrusts against themselves, or drawn counter-attacks against genteel pretensions by the "city". There are some crude and cheap uncoloured woodcuts, like the black-letter ballads hawked in the streets, but the genius of both Gillray and Rowlandson came surprisingly expensive.

One of my favourite possessions is a Gillray cartoon dated January 21, 1801, entitled *The Union Club*. Savagely Gillray imagines that the suppression of the Irish Parliament was a cause for rejoicing. The British political leaders (including some who had been hung in 1798) carouse together in drunken amity. Pitt wears a green jacket, Brannan and Hilbernia kiss each other above the sodden Fox and the Duke of Bedford lies in his own vomit. But it is clearly priced "one shilling", as my Hogarth of 1763 of a leering, squinting Wilkes holding a "Liberty" banner.

Such a price would have been out of reach of even journeymen and apprentices, about the modern equivalent of a scholarly book published by Macmillan. A good deal of official tolerance depended on limited access, except that crowds often gathered outside a shop when a new item appeared. Some of the best and most level attacks on the Prince Regent come from his own collection, purchased either from a cynical vanity or to suppress them.

Perhaps only Cruikshank, brought up to the trade, was a worthy successor to Gillray, with his surreal facility for the comic-grotesque. After the 1820s, English political conditions in France were then not entirely unlike those of the earlier English great age of caricature. Yet there are fine and bizarre Victorian cartoons. I want to know more about "Ally Stoper", a cartoon about the manners of Andy Capp and the politics of Alf Garnett, the working class xenophobia, but with a sneaking, facetious admiration. There is a lot of Love, of course, and enough of Gerald Scarle and Ralph Steadman to show how very good they are; and if their savagery and distortions of today, this exhibition demonstrates Gillray and to the facial humor of Rowlandson who showed, like Swift, that public men have private functions.

While the catalogue honours Max Beerbaum as a truly great draughtsman, they could have shown something stronger than his cartoon of W. S. Gilbert, something from among the 1900s. I think of the series *Mr Gladstone in Heaven* (now in the Junior Carlton), his *Edwardesque* or that one cartoon where the dandy's hatred of royalty vulgarly spills over. A fat French English penny: "Edwardesque, Rex et Imp. Deficit! Ah, but he'll always be that to me."

That was the old spirit of English caricature. The French Mint, Trilans, for the harshness of his *The Progress* done for *Private Eye* old masters no end. And he is student with great good sense and lack of chauvinism commissioned medals from him of the "Fathers of Caricature": Hogarth, Gillray, Rowlandson, Cruikshank and (yes) Edward Lear.

approach to the sociology and history of science has found favour among a few philosophers of science. The new "metascientists", inspired by Thomas Kuhn and the later philosophy of Wittgenstein, begin their studies of scientific activity by deliberately and self-consciously "bracketing" accepted knowledge about the natural universe. They study what is commonly thought of as false in just the same way as what is commonly thought of as true rather than setting aside a special preserve for the accepted facts of science.

If we can caricature the questions that were asked until recently, historians asked: "What heroic battles against ignorance and prejudice were won so that truth could out?"? sociologists asked: "How must the social life of science be organized so that truth will out?" and philosophers asked: "What is it that scientists must be doing in order to produce the truth and how can they do it better?"

The new metascientists are asking: "How does it come about that scientists believe x is the case rather than y?" That same question is being asked with historical, sociological or philosophical flavours.

The change in perspective brings about a change in the salient features of scientific activity; it makes science look much more like any other part of our culture. It also questions how science maintains its own image — an image which makes it essentially different from other cultural activities — that of a hard-edged generator of certainty.

The canonical model is maintained because when we learn science, any unusual results are explained by reference to deficiencies in our work; and where trained natural scientists have engaged in controversy for any extended period, this too is explained as due to bias or incompetence by one party. This way, any untidiness in our experience of scientific activity is blamed on human error, and the pure state. Working scientists account for even their own unexpected results in this way. The canonical model is like our shadow — we can never quite attain it — yet we continue to believe that all around us others are achieving it.

What the new metascientists have found is that real science has been with us all along; it is just that it is not the canonical model. The establishment of scientific truth is a matter of the establishment of a consensus, and like any other consensus, this one is messy in its formation and unity in its outcome. If one adopts a popular metaphor and thinks of the scientific community as judge and jury, and the theorists and experimenters concerned with a passage of work as the witnesses and barristers, then typically the outcome of a scientific controversy takes the form of a verdict in a court case and the canonical model is rarely so well defined. Compared to serious dispute in science, the courtroom is a model of speedy, efficient and decisive consensus management.

Science does not need defending by dressing it in the immaculate but flimsy robes of the canonical model. It is better to have, for finding out about the natural world. On the contrary, the risk of illusion and anti-science backlash. What is more, the model is harmful when it comes to teaching our future scientists and citizens to do and to appreciate science.

The canonical model causes trouble elsewhere too. Because "scientific" has become a synonym for "certain", it is by lay persons. This leads to the authoritative pronouncement of science, dressed in its formal, symbolic language, is believed to be either wholly true or the outcome of incomprehensible distortion or fraud such as to make it wholly false. To question the amount of a passage of scientific work amounts to an accusation.

By contrast, the new model of science sees the locus of knowledge not as the written word or symbol but as a community of skillful expert practitioners, both the abilities and the fallibilities of which are acquired by apprenticeship like programs of information. Scientists are to be seen, then, as expert consultants rather than infallible authorities. The crucial point is that varying, even contradictory, expert opinions are to be expected occasionally; the cause of variation is not necessarily incompetence, bias or

## A new perspective for science

True or false? H. M. Collins looks at attitudes to scientific certainty

fraud. The flip-flop logic is no longer persuasive.

One implication of the newer model concerns the methods of the "soft" sciences: they must not take as their favoured model canonical but false versions of the hard sciences. To make unfavourable comparisons between natural and other sciences in terms of their "scientific" apparatuses is to misunderstand the nature of the enterprise.

More important for most of us are the implications of the models of science when scientific and technological facts are disputed within the public arena. Such disputes should be understood as the reasonable disagreement to be found among a community of skilled practitioners.

The tension between the canonical model and the new model can be seen in the British legal system. A court case is one of the rare occasions on which it is in someone's interests to try to question a piece of very ordinary scientific work; work that backs up a place where the citizen — as defendant, or member of a jury, or judge — is likely to be asked to consider the meaning of expert opinion.

In the British legal system the state, through the medium of the police and Home Office laboratories, handles most of the forensic sciences. It is the state which prosecutes; thus the defence usually does not have as much access to the scientific evidence and its means of production as does the prosecution. This would be of no consequence if data were as neutral as the conventional picture of science makes them out to be. If the same data were the inevitable precipitate of the experimental method *however* carried it through, then data produced by the state would as likely speak for the defence as for the prosecution. At the very worst, the problem would turn on matters of interpretation, not evidence. The defence, however, does not always feel this way.

The conflict between reality and the canonical model were nicely illustrated by the head of the Home Office forensic science laboratories, Margaret Pereira, in a *Panorama*, interviewed why scientists on the side of the defence were not invited to participate in forensic investigations. Pereira: There have been occasions when defence lawyers have visited forensic science labs to see what is available [pause] but when it comes to case, I think that how to defend a specific too much is it not?

Presenter: Only if you are on the side of the crown. Pereira: I disagree with that because the point is that these [pause] data are available and what you are asking is for almost, because that is to distort them what is done. The game is different for the prosecution and the defence.

The contradiction between the accepted view of scientific data, and if they are data, they should speak with like voice to any member of the

scientific community whether working for the defence or for the prosecution, if they are the crystallized opinions of experts, then those opinions might crystallize differently for defence and prosecution. In that case disagreement over the soundness and quality of data should be expected.

The technological equivalent of the criminal court's forensic science is the evidence of experts at public inquiries. A public inquiry is like a trial in that great energy is expended by various parties in trying to reveal the contingent foundation of judgements that experts claim to be based on certain technical authority. It should be so surprising that, for example, different numbers when they try to quantify the risks involved in nuclear power stations. Neither should it surprise us that there are different opinions as to whether a meaningful number can be reached at all. Different experts will produce different opinions regarding the quantity and justifiability of risk and, likewise, different experts will produce different opinions about the other more formal technological aspects of the working of nuclear plants. It is this, according to Wynne, of 1977, that the presiding judge did not, or could not, take into account.

Imbued with the canonical model of scientific rationality, Justice Parker treating expert viewpoints, not as opening out the relevant social factors within the scientific debate but as accusations of personal dishonesty. "I have no doubt as to the integrity of those concerned in all of [the controlling authorities] and I regard the attacks made upon them as without foundation." (Parker, as quoted by Wynne). From within the canonical view — that facts speak for themselves to unbiased observers — disagreement over the meaning of facts can only be interpreted as accusations of dishonesty. This is the "flip-flop" model again. It is the wholly false and inviolable, or it is the wholly false and inviolable, fraud or culpable incompetence.

We need to learn to live with a new model of science if we are to avoid the growth of anti-science, and if we are to play a proper part as citizens in an increasingly technological society. We understand the fallibility and interests of financial advisors, lawyers, politicians, and literary critics, doctors, builders, car mechanics, and travel agents, and in the case of none of these professional groups does our knowledge of the interest-base of their advice lead us to conclude that they are not more expert in their areas than we ourselves. Neither anarchy nor nihilism follows from the recognition of the human basis of expertise, all that follows is the realization that there is neither magical nor scientific escape from the uncertainties within our decisions.

The close link between civil servants and the LDP is a fact of life. This is precisely why the *Kentel-seido* is a constant target for the left-wing teachers' union, Nikkyoso, for which the authorization of historical accounts

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Above left, Crown Prince Hirohito on an official visit to Britain in 1921. Centre, mushroom cloud over Nagasaki after the dropping of the atom bomb. Above, a fair in honour of the Shinto god of commerce in the rebuilt central shopping street of Hiroshima.

## How can we be ourselves?

Louis Allen on the national identity crisis provoked by Japanese rewriting of history

*Mizu ni nagasu* — let the water wash it away — is a phrase the Japanese use about the past. It is rather more than letting bygones be bygones. There is a kind of eager obliteration of unpleasantness implied, so that the future is untrammelled.

Shichirō Yamamoto, the essayist, made the same point three years ago in an essay entitled *What was the Pacific War for the Japanese?* "We make an absolute out of a hinge of time," he wrote, "and then turn it into a new point of departure. What went before is obliterated or denied — that is the traditional Japanese way of life."

The sudden volte-face of the Meiji period, accepting the once detested westernization and modernization, is an example of this — so is the U-turn adopted by the Japanese under the seven years of American occupation. Not everyone accepts that U-turn, however, nor does it result in a turning-away from history. There is a Japanese obsession with re-interpreting history, like the obsessive preoccupation with identity. In fact the two have the same roots. Hence the febrile reaction to press accusations, in 1982, that the Ministry of Education officials who operated the *Kentel-seido* (text-book authorization system) had interfered with history texts and substituted the word "advance" for the word "invasion" when speaking of Japanese aggression towards China in the 1930s.

### 6 The time has come when we must explain why Japan waged the Pacific war 9

The Chinese and South Koreans made vigorous protests, so did the Okinawans, who claimed that references to Japanese army massacres of Okinawan civilians had been expunged. When the dust settled, Professor Shiochi Watanabe, of Sophia University, pointed out in the magazine *Shokun* that no alteration of texts had taken place and that the uproar was based on the erroneous report of a single journalist which had been taken up uncritically by the rest of the press.

No doubt the press, the Chinese and the Koreans all jumped the gun. But the system does give cause for concern and it is disingenuous to claim that it is not censorship, because the ministry will not provide schools with an author's books if he doesn't toe the anonymous checker's line. This itself is far from neutral, as there is a close link between the ministry and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, which has the lobby of education specialists, the *bunkyo-zoku* (education tribe), so the surveillance of textbooks is a party issue.

The close link between civil servants and the LDP is a fact of life. This is precisely why the *Kentel-seido* is a constant target for the left-wing teachers' union, Nikkyoso, for which the authorization of historical accounts

of Japan at war on the mainland of Asia is simply a device to implement control of the education system. This explains Nikkyoso's passionate support of the Chuo University professor Saburo Ienaga, who has been involved in litigation with the ministry for more than a quarter of a century over the screening of his texts.

One example will serve. Describing the killings after the fall of Nanking in 1937, Ienaga wrote: "Immediately after occupying Nanking, the Japanese army massacred a large number of Chinese servicemen and civilians." On the grounds that this sounded like a systematic massacre by the army, Ienaga was told to re-write the description as "the Japanese army's unorganized action which took place in the midst of confusion". After the complaints made by the Chinese government in 1982, Ienaga decided to re-insert his original wording and to re-insist on it by means of an *erratum* slip. The ministry refused, saying there was nothing to correct.

The 71-year-old Ienaga is, of course, more than a writer of textbooks. He is the author of *Japan's Last War*, an attack on the "arrogant and irresponsible" military who both destroyed Japanese democracy and sent their armies "trained with calculated brutality" into Asia in the 1930s and 1940s, and only surrendered when they had brought down upon their own people a devastation unparalleled in Japanese history. The book was written in 1963, at a time when Ienaga feared that nostalgia and the time were eroding the realities of war.

To explicate the Japanese army's behaviour in the Second World War, the old field-marshal Hata had put the blame on the people as a whole. Conscription had brought the entire range of the population into the army, so atrocities indicated that the moral life of the whole nation had deteriorated.

Not so, says Ienaga: "The atrocities committed by the Japanese army and the navy attested to the moral degeneration of the ruling élite." Nor will he allow the case that is made — in Japan and elsewhere — that this élite was the liberator of Asia from European colonialism: "To call Japan's disgraceful and bloody rampage a crusade for liberation is to stand truth and history on their heads."

It is easy to see why some younger Japanese dislike Ienaga's stance. Japan went into the Pacific war in self-defence, wrote Yoshitaka Eguchi to the *Japan Times* (August 28,

1982). "Thirty-seven years have passed since the war. The time has come when we must explain to our neighbouring countries why Japan waged the Pacific war. And as a first step, history textbooks should be revised. I presume that my feelings are shared by a considerable number of Japanese."

The "explanation" takes different forms. In the monthly magazine, *Chuo Koran* (April 1983), an article by Michiko Hasegawa of Saitama University not only adopted the description of the war as envisaged by wartime propaganda (and, as such, banned during the occupation), but also resurrected the right-wing novelist Fusao Hayashi's *Daï Toa sensō katei-ron* (An affirmative view of the Greater East Asia war).

Hayashi's thesis is that what happened between 1941 and 1945 was really an episode in a hundred years' war which started when the British navy shelled Kagoshima in 1863. The guns which had blown Indians from their barrels after the mutiny and encouraged unwilling Chinese to accept the humiliation of opium sales, were now directed at Japan. In self-defence Japan felt the need both to "expel the barbarian" and to "civilize and enlighten" its people.

These two things are usually seen as contradictory — for Hayashi they are complementary, both means of facing the threat from the West. Japan may have ended up fighting the nations of Asia, its purpose was to save them.

Taking up Hayashi's case, and modifying it, Hasegawa questions whether Japan was indeed totally defeated. If you ask Japanese war veterans why they fought, they answer that they were fighting to liberate Asia. "And indeed, Asia was liberated. It is a curious logic that denies any connection between that purpose and the war's outcome."

Hasegawa is irritated by Japanese insistence that they alone were in the wrong, and it is here she parts company with Hayashi. What Hayashi dismisses as the "dementia of the defeated" she interprets as a phenomenon corresponding to what the nationalist General Kanji Ishihara called "100 million people united in repentance". Ishihara was not apologetic for having helped cause the war, but was suggesting that the responsibility for the defeat should be shared by the entire nation.

Underneath "repentance" lay a deeper regret that the Japanese had been forced into "uncharacteristic" behaviour since the mid-19th century,

by accepting westernization and discarding traditional Japanese qualities. The upshot of the 1945 defeat was that Japan would henceforth refuse to accept the confrontational view of the world — friends and enemies — implicit in the Western outlook: "The Japanese determined never again to take up residence in the violent Western-style international community... based on this philosophy, postwar reconstruction was directed towards reconstruction rather than revenge."

On the other hand, in the rest of the world, power is what counts, and the Japanese will be vulnerable to power exerted by others while they are trying to live accordingly to a totally different vision. "Japan has its characteristic illusions and other countries have theirs." To review the significance of the war is to try and define what the war was for Japan, and what its identity is. Never before in Japan's history, claims Hasegawa, was it necessary to "wage war to preserve our identity".

A conspicuous example of westernization was, of course, the acceptance or imposition — depending on which side you are on — of the new constitution of 1946. This constitution, and the

### It is tempting to assume that the revision of war is a form of resurgent nationalism 9

censorship of the occupation period which forbade criticism of it, is the *bête noire* of Jun Eto, professor at the Tokyo Institute of Technology. His constantly reiterated case is that censorship falsified Japanese thinking to such an extent that three or four decades later the Japanese are still unaware of what was done to them.

That there was censorship is, of course, true, and like any other censorship it committed atrocities. On the other hand, the Japanese society which eventually issued from the occupation period had a freedom of expression unheard of in the period to which Eto and those like him look back with longing.

There are pressures to modify strictures on the Japanese past, but these are rarely as blatant as the *Kentel-seido* system of the Ministry of Education. They derive more from the feeling that Japanese historians should not criticize Japan's military past in terms which would be more appropriate in the mouths of British or Americans. A good example is a three-man review of Tadeo Morimoto's book on the planning failures of Japan's wartime leaders, *Masho no rekishi. Makuro keigoku kara mita Teishyo senso* (Devil's history. The Pacific War. The Macro-management studies viewpoint).

The book is an impeachment of Japan's war-time leadership, and in a sense none of its facts is really new, as its stance. But it was its immoderate language which irked one critic, Professor Yamazaki of Osaka University. "Arrogance that spits in the face of heaven", he said, "that is how Mori-moto describes Japanese leadership, 'perverse dreams à la Don Quixote', 'mad dogs with turned-up eyes', 'brain-softened schizophrenics', 'stupid blockheads'." To which another critic, the writer Saito Maruya replied: "That's exactly how I used to think of them when I was young!"

Not to be put off, Yamazaki went on: "It's all very well for you to have thought of them in that way when you were young, but now, when the war is over the Japanese war leaders have been punished as criminals, I think it's a matter for regret that such phrases can be used in books written by a Japanese!"

To the British reader, accustomed to his generals being called donkeys and worse, this seems over-sensitive. The reason is plain. Even simple narration of war is tendentious in Japan.

The history of the Second World War, whether we call it the Pacific war or the Greater East Asia war, really constitutes Japanese experience of what the First World War was for Britain and Europe. It is their equivalent of God matching them with his hour, of thousands of young lives lost in jungle mud or on remote coral islands.

Imphal and Leyte are their Somme and Verdun, in which the whole nature of the national enterprise in war is called into question. The British and Americans in the Far East were conjugating the verb "to have" — for the Japanese, it was the verb "to be". That is why there can be no consensus in the history of events in which they are the cruel aggressors and the pathetic victims, the tyrannical oppressors and the liberators, the sophisticated planners and the clumsy improvisers.

That much of the recent analysis comes from the right wing makes it tempting to assume that the endless revision of the war is just another form of resurgent nationalism. It was far more than that. "Who are we?" asks Professor Hasegawa. "How can we be ourselves?" Even though the focus may be shifting a little towards the occupation, there is no doubt that Japanese historians of the war seek the answers to those questions in the way they behaved — or were made to behave — outside their own country in the years 1941 to 1945.

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Next week: shaping a post-war philosophy for Japan; and the division of Korea 40 years on.



## BOOKS

## Organizing the present in terms of the past

by J. D. Y. Peel

*Islands of History*  
by Marshall Sahlins  
University of Chicago Press, £21.25  
ISBN 0 226 73357 2

*Exemplars*  
by Rodney Needham  
University of California Press, £20.95  
ISBN 0 520 05200 5

Somewhere between nature and history lies the terrain of anthropology. For a long time anthropology did not worry much about the exact location of these boundaries. Now they have again become problematic. Sociobiology has been a main reason for this on one side, since it has seemed to arrogate to itself one perennial objective of anthropology: to speak about "human nature". On the other hand, many anthropologists have come to feel that the suspension of time, the indifference to history, which were hallmarks of the functionalist and structuralist schools under which such major advances were made, could no longer be sustained: historicity had to be reincorporated. The two sides of this problem are here evident in two very different books by two of the leading anthropologists in the United States and Britain respectively, each in a powerfully individual way.

Marshall Sahlins's *Islands of History* is a dazzling book: deeply grounded in his mastery of Polynesian ethnography, but also wide-ranging in its comparative references, moving between cultural "readings" of major events in Pacific history and broad statements of historical/anthropological method. It comprises five essays, free-standing of one another but interrelated. Sahlins has a wonderful eye for telling detail, and is frequently very witty. The marks of his long *affaire* with French scholarship are very evident — in references, especially, to Dumézil, Vernant, Bourdieu, de Saussure, the *Annales* historians, Clastres — but above all it is the classic Frazerian theme of sacred kingship, and its realization in some of the Pacific societies — Hawaii, Fiji, Maori — which enthuses him.

The centrepiece, where he treats his topic in exemplary fashion and shows what a historical anthropology might be, is his Frazer lecture: "Captain James Cook: or, the Dying God". It is an extraordinary and poignant story, whose coincidences are such as almost to give credence to the view of history as the work of an Invisible Hand. Cook, arriving at Hawaii at the time of the Makahiki (New Year Festival) in 1779, circumnavigated the island in a manner closely parallel to the image of the god Lono at his annual return, and was in fact received as Lono. Lono represents powers of nature which challenge but are symbolically over-

come and annexed by the Hawaiian King. Cook thus became a factor in the interplay of local forces between chiefs and priests, the commoners and the chiefs. Cook (as Lono) departed pretty well on schedule, but when a broken mast forced his culturally anomalous return, he had to be viewed as the King's enemy; and it was the King's Defender, Nuha, who killed him — ironically with an iron spike, probably made in Birmingham, an apt material symbol of the world-historical forces just beginning to engulf the Pacific Islands.

Such a demonstration, of how a particular historical sequence is enacted according to the prevailing cultural categories, requires extension in two directions. The first is to elaborate how the categories work. Chapter one moves to an explication of the ethos of Hawaiian society from the famous sexual welcome which Cook's sailors received from the Hawaiian women. The salience and pervasiveness of the erotic in Hawaiian culture, as the work of an Invisible Hand, Cook, arriving at Hawaii at the time of the Makahiki (New Year Festival) in 1779, circumnavigated the island in a manner closely parallel to the image of the god Lono at his annual return, and was in fact received as Lono. Lono represents powers of nature which challenge but are symbolically over-

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terposed to society as well as incorporative of it; and divinity is dual too, for it inheres both in the living chiefs and in the gods of the land.

The remaining chapters are more addressed to the general issues involved in a historical anthropology. Least successful, despite much of incidental interest, is "Other Times, Other Customs", whose main theme is that different kinds of society have different modes of historicity. So far, so good, but I am not convinced by his concept of "heroic history", where the social system "multiplies" the action of the King, giving him a disproportionate historical effect. The crucial issue arises when we consider the radical social consequences of Cook's impact on Hawaii: gods desecrated, chiefs challenged, an entire social order subverted. For in being implemented, cultural categories submit themselves to refractory, external determinations and are thus infused with new practical values.

In the final essay, Sahlins is led to challenge those antinomies such as change/stability or event/structure which sustain the opposition of history and anthropology. Perhaps he goes too far here: the issues are not resolved by quoting Foucault's epigram: "the more it stays the same, the more it changes".

There are degrees of continuity: instances where prior cultural categories shed rather less light on processes of change; even limiting cases, where such "anthropological" concepts as culture may give us less purchase on historical questions. But Sahlins's essential message is absolutely valid: anthropology is involved in history because "culture is precisely the organization of the current situation in terms of the past".

Rodney Needham's book, for all that he shares Sahlins's debt to structuralism, is very different. This is a strange work, a concatenation of literary/philosophical essays which Needham calls "a history of ideas without history". The last phrase is the operative one, for though he considers in chronological order a series of writers — Archilochus, Sextus Empiricus, Robert Knox (ethnographer of Ceylon), Locke, Psephenus (fraudulent ethnographer of Formosa and Dr Johnson's friend), Swedenborg (the mystic), Wittgenstein (on Frazer), Dumézil, Castañeda (probably fraudulent too) — neither their temporal relations, nor their pastness, nor their historically specific features are of interest to him. Repeatedly, he calls himself a "comparativist", which means that he seeks the common forms or principles that underlie cultural and historical diversity. Needham writes acutely, and his "exemplars" are not commonplace, though the universal principles which they are argued to exemplify (such as the strong human inclination to organize experience through dual symbolic classification) are not such as to surprise any anthropologist.

Does he point a way forward? I am doubtful. Some of his principles (such as dyarchical conceptions of sovereignty) are certainly very widespread, but do not seem universal. If so, Sahlins's "cultural-historical" way of dealing with them seems much more illuminating than Needham's speculations about their being a "natural proclivity of thought", even the unconscious product of a "cerebral vector". Inside the man of letters there is a sociobiologist struggling to get out — but not struggling very hard. Talk of "cerebral vectors" is a mere tease unless we are prepared to go the whole physiological hog and get direct evidence of how the brain works. But Needham shies from this course: the "proclivity" is itself constituted purely by the order detected in the social facts which are its evidence.

From such circularities the student of comparative social facts, if he will not do physiology, can only be released by turning to history.

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"The Death of Cook" by Johann Zoffany, circa 1795.

## Social purpose

*Social Evolution*  
by Robert Trivers  
Benjamin Cummings  
Addison-Wesley, £19.95  
ISBN 0 8053 8507 X

In the early 1970s Robert Trivers, an assistant professor at Harvard University, made a number of critically important conceptual advances that helped sociobiology to develop as an integrated discipline within the framework of evolutionary biology. He defined and developed the idea of parental investment as the key to understanding much of social evolution. He showed us why parent-offspring conflicts are likely to develop around the time of weaning, he pointed to the importance of reciprocity as a reason for the evolution of altruism, and he showed how anomalous sex ratios may be understood in terms of his investment theory. Trivers left Harvard for Santa Cruz in 1977, since when not much has been heard from him.

In 1978, I went to Harvard to teach

sociobiology. I was filling in for Trivers and I discovered another side to his character. He had been an astonishingly effective and inspiring teacher, and at Harvard that is particularly difficult. Undergraduates flocked to my course hoping that it would somehow match up to Trivers's. Graduate students lined up to meet me hoping that I had Trivers's deep understanding of their scientific problems. Robert Trivers had left behind a reputation, but there was hope that it could become a legacy, because he intended to bring his lectures together and publish them as a textbook. We have waited eight years for Trivers to write his book, eight years during which it was widely rumoured that the book would never be written. Now it has appeared. I expected it to be out of date and I was wrong.

There are many facets to this book that make it a classic on publication: the topic has not been covered in this way before; the intended readership ranges from the layman to the research worker; the presentation of figures and photographs is extraordinary; and the text covers almost all the relevant studies right up to 1983. Trivers has succeeded on all counts. But exactly how and why?

Trivers's first problem was to seize his reader's imagination in the opening sentences. Since the text is meant to be

intelligible to laypeople or social scientists, the natural way to start would be with an introduction to genetics. But genetics is a dry topic, so Trivers starts with design. Organisms seem designed to do something. That "something" turns out to be successful reproduction — to leave as many surviving offspring as possible. This is the central concept of natural selection which can be shown to act on social as well as on morphological variation. Using this way in, Trivers is able to introduce several fascinating biological examples and solve paradoxes — like the sterile workers in social insects who hardly seem designed to maximize their reproductive success.

Only now does Trivers introduce us to genetics, and by this time even the naïf reader is ready for it. He then leads us through kinship theory, parental investment, sexual selection, the sex ratio, the evolution of sex, mate choice, and the evolution of cooperation, deceit and self-deception. These latter topics may, on first encounter, seem to be little more than a rewriting of his old papers from the 1970s. They are not. Trivers weaves other relevant sociobiological topics into his own special framework. He has not stopped assimilating information and he has been able to accommodate new findings into his own view of life.

I have always thought that one of Trivers's weaknesses is his lack of formal thought — that is, he rarely produces simple mathematical models to reveal the assumptions behind any particular conclusion. However, this weakness leads to an intuitive but absorbing style of writing. For example, difficult concepts are often described using clear and instructive personal anecdotes. I believe it is this approach that allows the book to succeed at so many levels. In essence, Trivers argues "If I understood it this way, then so can you".

Before he became a biologist, Trivers was employed in the production of children's books and uses his experience throughout this book. It is no surprise to find the pages liberally illustrated with pictures of animals, but it is a delight to see the animals performing the behaviour sequences that are described in the adjacent text. Trivers's skills at communication are also evident in his choice of examples. Rather than provide an encyclopaedic list of case studies, he prefers to return to the same study animals in different contexts throughout the book. The beauty of this approach is that the reader becomes familiar with the life-histories of gulls, ground squirrels and red deer, so that each new theoretical advance is illustrated by an old friend. No textbook is perfect, and Trivers's

suffers from two weaknesses. The first is that, by returning to the same relatively small set of species, some more important and instructive examples are ignored. For example, using the black-tailed prairie dog, Princeton University's John Hoogland has produced the most thoroughly worked studies of incest avoidance and alarm calling from natural populations. Yet his work is not mentioned. My second criticism concerns Trivers's apparent gullibility. Time and again, examples are quoted to illustrate some particular theory when the data may, in fact, be interpreted in other ways (behaviour patterns of identical twins, incest avoidance, and mate choice are cases in point). However, the teacher who uses Trivers's book should be able to complement it with occasional supplementary papers and critical discussions of questionable conclusions. Trivers's book is a unique and invaluable synthesis of our current state of knowledge about social evolution. And it goes further by providing several highly original ideas that will form the basis for future research by industrious readers.

Paul Harvey

Paul Harvey is university lecturer in zoology and fellow of Merton College, Oxford.



## More carrots, less stick

Tony Becher examines the issues behind the University Grants Committee's new research funding strategy

Research in physics looks very different from research in social work, but at a closer level, research in electronic engineering looks different from that in civil engineering; and at a closer level still, research in intellectual history looks different from that in demography. To complicate the matter further, one can identify common research styles running across apparently quite widely distinct fields of inquiry. Research is a complex, multi-faceted and far from unitary concept.

In a study of a single laboratory in *Social Studies of Science*, Vol. 12, Karin Knorr-Cetina develops earlier accounts of how scientific reputations are built up. Her study identifies a marked concern "with maintaining the value of some product, but the value of the scientists themselves". Reinforcing this point, "it is a market... where the commodity is scientists and not a market for the products of free — or semi-free — entrepreneurs".

It is a common failing for sociologists of science, as indeed for students of findings in one particular field (such as physics) to a much wider context (such as pure and applied science). However, Knorr-Cetina's analysis is borne out independently by my own research into a variety of disciplinary cultures. What she says, in *The British Academics*, of academics as one-man businesses, though with the emphasis that what they are selling is themselves.

## Individuals do not exist in isolation

Knorr-Cetina goes on to argue that, even if this point is granted, it cannot be assumed that individuals exist in isolation. What they do is necessarily a part of a working context of some kind. In research, this context is typically not the researcher's own department. It is commonly identified in the literature as the sociology of science as a wider professional "scientific community". Knorr-Cetina suggests that even this broader frame of reference is too narrow to reflect actuality. Her claims will doubtless give rise to further debate.

So important point here, however, is to note that, as Martin Trow wrote in *Studies in Higher Education*, Vol. 1, No. 1, "the department qua department is less significant for the furtherance of its members' research than it is as a centre of graduate training and the academic career. The true research 'legions' — the handful of people sub-discipline or line of inquiry" — given the requirement that departments be organized on the basis of teaching as well as research. It will be a concentration of several specialisms in one particular department.

As a result, departments are best conceived of as building units for individually more or less active researchers, whose professional contacts will more often than not lie outside their departments and their institutions. To say this is not to deny the importance of departments in defining and defending the collective interests of the faculties and educating students.

Trow, in the same article, went on to discuss the subtle interaction between teaching and research: "There is a very considerable division of academic labour, both within and between departments... a considerable variability in individual talent, preference and disposition allows people actually to distribute their time and energy very differently among the various functions of the department. The academic division of labour... allows the academic actually to perform in a wider range of functions than would be possible if its members were more homogeneous in orientation and personal preference."

The UGC's plans for exercising selectivity in research funding were triggered off by a concern that the steadily deteriorating total budgets for the university sector could lead to an overall reduction in the quality of research. The only effective remedy, it was suggested, must be to discriminate between research of high quality and research of lesser quality, and to concentrate support on the former. What began as an issue of public expenditure policy has thus rapidly become a matter of research policy (less resources for some, more resources for others).

It has long been the case that resources for "big science" have been concentrated, either within chosen institutions (e.g. Jodrell Bank and Cambridge for radio astronomy) or between institutions (e.g. Harwell and CERN for nuclear physics). But on a comparative scale, the costs of research in most humanities subjects are negligible: there does therefore seem to be a fashionably doctrinaire aspect to the insistence on rationalizing even budget.

The equity of the punishment would seem justified by its being administered, punctiliously if not impartially, to all who are deemed to deserve it. Driving the message home, and further elaborating on it, the recent Green Paper, wittily entitled *The Development of Higher Education into the 1990s*, asserts that: "Greater concentration on research or even mean that universities will lose research funding have discretion over the funds at their disposal, and be able to seek research funds from other sources. Research will be a consideration in the necessary process of rationalization."

So the UGC's policy for selectivity in research poses two sets of problems. Although it may be administratively convenient to identify individual departments as the appropriate units for research, Knorr-Cetina's argument

suggests that departments have in fact relatively little control over individual, entrepreneurial researchers — and less still over their external research contacts. An individual researcher cannot easily be prevented from getting a grant from the British Academy or work on the archives in the Bibliothèque Nationale, any more than an individual mechanical engineer can be dissuaded from doing a reasonable amount of consultancy for a particular firm.

## Departments have relatively little control

The research standing of a department — in the majority of disciplines — is little more than the aggregate of the individual reputations of its members. There will be periods when a given department is prolific in research terms and others when it is relatively unproductive. Ageing departments may be less favourably placed in the research stakes; those which are able to recruit young ambitious academics may find themselves in a better position.

It will be far from easy to ensure fair judgement from the centre between every department in every subject area in every university. "Performance measures" of the kind currently being espoused constitute an attempt to make complex judgements in a highly simplified way. For example, the suggestion that each department might list its five most significant publications implies that there is a viable mechanism within the UGC to aggregate and resulting data of an exceptionally diverse kind. The task will be liable to the same accusations of unfairness as were levelled against the UGC's discriminatory cuts in 1981.

Even assuming that the chorus of complaints, arguments and appeals that eventually dies down, the system will departments funded only to teach and not to do research. This is not to say that their members will not do research: only that they will not be funded to do so by the UGC. As is will be virtually impossible to control the entrepreneurial efforts of staff to happen in public sector institutions who were specifically set up to have "academic drift" would be no easier to polychronic.

However, it is the effects at the individual level which would be likely to prove most destructive. In any search, the most ambitious members are likely to make strenuous efforts to move elsewhere in order to avoid designation as second-class academic. In replacing them, their departments have little opportunity to fill the vacancies with similarly active researchers. The strategy proposed by the UGC also calls for institutional review and control. In theory, universities will not

be bound by the central policy of their departments' research. In practice, it may prove difficult to remove even modestly from the departments' by the UGC to be worthy of and to redistribute them to elements deemed unworthy. This is not so, it might be worth searching for an institutional search committee would be to do in relation to soft pure applied areas of inquiry, and relation to hard pure and basic research.

In the majority of universities, committees would attempt to assign orders of merit to their research — but there could be no possibility of one like with like. In a typical Literature department, one might expect to find more scholarly research — but there could also be one member of the department preparing an edited text of a novel, one who is engaged in the uses of myth in T. S. Eliot, one who is working on a history of High Norse literature, and so on.

What kind of window dressing one develop to produce a picture of the department's work. It is often suggested that, in the course of validation, it is those who put together the most convincing who do best, rather than those who have the most satisfactory offer. In the same way, one research support will go to those are most skilful in the delicate plausible set of departmental tives, rather than to those who properly concerned to pursue excellence.

It is not easy to envisage the future for assessing the merit of departmental research within a given institution, let alone outside it. Those who have known how difficult it is to compare the qualities of a promising group with those of an able chemist or still of a well-regarded social tutor.

It is a common tendency of policy-makers to miss this because of inherent limitations measures available to them for measurement and control. The weaknesses in its standard operating procedures appear to have implications towards a strategy which is common-sense and overlooks knowledge. Academic departments are being treated as if they are homogeneous rather than heterogeneous in their constitution; they are being regarded as if there were significant differences between and within diverse fields of study. It might be appropriate to suggest means of tackling the problem that would seem to go less against the grain of current practice. First, at an intra-institutional level, the committee might encourage universities to institute peer group review procedures starting point for the assessment of departments' research capabilities.

An approach along these lines would at least help to ensure that institutional judgements could be related to the degree of support of the scholarly community in a given field for what is being done and planned in each department. Inter-departmental comparisons would still be very difficult, but they would at least not be between sets of raw, entirely unprocessed data.

Second, at the inter-institutional level, rather than imposing his own judgements, the UGC might be able to reinforce competitive market mechanisms, might introduce a modest reduction in the level of research funding, for every university and every department, and then use some of the resulting savings to institute a matching grant scheme.

Those departments which are awarded outside grants, from research councils, foundations, government agencies, industrial sponsors and the like, would be entitled to a UGC supplement proportional to the total funding received. The committee would thus be able to rely on the judgement of established grant-giving agencies rather than on its own inevitably limited capacity to assess research potential. In doing so, it would also move from its present punitive strategy to one that has been found to be noticeably better morale — to use the carrot rather than the stick.

The author is chairman of the school of education in the University of Sussex.







## BOOKS

### Never puppets

Le Royaume du Laos 1949-1965  
by Jean Deuve  
Paris: École Française d'Extrême  
Orient/Adrien Maisonneuve, Fr 170  
ISBN 2 85539 739 1

Laos is a small, mountainous, undeveloped country, with the area of the United Kingdom and a racially disparate population of two to three million. Landlocked in the hinterland of Vietnam and Thailand, it was ruled until 1949 as a backwater of the French Indochinese empire which the Vietnamese dominated. Independence in 1949 "within the French community" meant, above all, independence from Vietnam, the hated traditional enemy. But the Vietnamese had always had their eyes on Laos (as on Cambodia) and they at once began to sap away in the communist manner, using a minority of disaffected Laotians who identified Vietnamese interests with their own.

The French Indo-China war was meanwhile being fought and lost. The 1954 Geneva agreement which ended it cast Laos for the role of neutral buffer between Vietnam and Thailand, always bitter enemies but now lined up on opposite sides in the cold war. In the event neither the Americans nor the Vietnamese could keep

their fingers out of Laos: there resulted the brief Luotian civil war of 1960-61 which ended in another effort at neutralization by international conference in 1962. It was too late. Laos, used by both sides in the United States Vietnam War, passed under the Vietnamese jackboot when the war was lost in 1975, its elite dispersed, its king, who had seen it all coming and refused to leave his people, "allowed to die".

Few of the many books written about Indo-China in the sixties and seventies were concerned with Laos, and the authors even of those few saw the country through foreign eyes, as a somewhat unmanoeuvrable piece in the international power game. Here, at last, is the recent history told from the inside, by Jean Deuve, a man who went to Laos as part of the Special Forces in 1945 and stayed there, on the inside track of political affairs, until 1964. The story is well told, the rivalries and intrigues of competing Laotian clans related, political changes well chronicled, events which have puzzled foreign observers explained: the documentation - with 11 maps, 62 pages of original documents and 38 of biographies - is unique. It is a book for foreigners who have lived in Laos, for the Thais and for the Laotians themselves, who have never been shown their history in this intimate way.

There are of course wider implications. Piece in an international power game Laos may have been, but with the exception of the Vietnamese who operated from within, no foreign power diverted the deep national undercurrents that moved it or mastered the strong personalities who ruled. It may be thought, says the author, that the Laotian had no influence on the flow of events and on the fate of his country.

In fact the great powers, latterly the Americans, were forced again and again to react to actions taken by Laotians in Laotian party or personal interests, against American "advice". The Laotians have not been merely witnesses of or passive playthings in a history made by others. They have been active participants, never puppets.

Even when collaboration between the Laotian right-wing government and the Americans was at its height - from 1960 onwards - the Americans could never prevent the leadership from implementing its own ideas, playing the Americans off against the Thais, for example, as was done in 1962.

Nor were the Americans alone in their frustration. I shall never forget the bewilderment of Russian instructors, chance-met in Northern Laos in 1962, who - at a much lower level - "can't do anything with these people". Perhaps the verdict must be, as Jean Deuve ends his story in 1965, the year in which all hope of a domestic solution in Laos was lost, and in which the Vietnam War began to affect it directly. He is to be congratulated for a meticulous, thought-provoking book of particular relevance to the revived debate in the United States about the Vietnam War as a whole, for serious American military involvement in Vietnam had roots in the Laotian civil war of 1960-61.

Hugh Toye

Dr Toye is the author of "Laos: buffer state or battleground" (1971).

## Minor incidents

How Pol Pot Came to Power  
by Ben Kiernan  
Verso, £30.00 and £9.95  
ISBN 0 86091 097 0 and 805 X

The second national congress of the Indochinese Communist Party (ICP), meeting in 1951, decided to dissolve that multi-state body and to replace it with three national parties for Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia respectively. It reasoned that everybody knew the ICP was run exclusively by Vietnamese and that many Laotian and Cambodian nationalists, who might otherwise be participants in the resistance struggle, were dissuaded from joining by their reluctance to serve under Vietnamese leadership. Congress documents record Vietnamese belief that neither Laotians nor Cambodians were capable of comprehending Marxism/Leninism. They also chronicle the decision to send delegations of the Vietnamese party to the two other countries to oversee the running of the national parties. These same documents elsewhere record Vietnam's intention, once the record had been won, of creating an Indochinese Federation and a single communist party.

Following the victories of 1975 Laos immediately became a Vietnamese satellite, according to plan, but Cambodia did not. Instead she was governed by a communist regime led by the mysterious figure of Pol Pot, about whom virtually nothing was known.

She was extremely hostile to Vietnam and soon began to mount attacks on Vietnamese territory. In December 1978 Vietnam invaded Cambodia, overthrew Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge regime, and installed a puppet Cambodian regime made up of large part of former Khmer Rouge members who had fallen from power. Ben Kiernan attempts to disentangle the convoluted history of Cambodia, plain how Pol Pot became leader of the Vietnamese legions in 1975.

This is a weighty, scholarly book by specialists; more general readers will soon find themselves floundering less in a welter of unfamiliar names and minor incidents. Documentation sources for the book's subject matter exist, so the author necessarily relies very heavily upon personal interviews with whatever persons he was able to meet. Again, he includes vast numbers of incidents, some very trivial and presumably because it is not possible to reject any in the certain knowledge they are not significant. One cannot but admire Dr Kiernan's persistence and industry, but they do not make an easy book to read. He does not stand back from his subject and present readers with a broad and readily assimilable picture of development, certainly for the good reason that he cannot be done in the present state of knowledge. That raises the question of the radio waves by Karl Jansky in 1930 extended this narrow window on the universe. Although there was little interest initially in these novel observations, the improvements in radar techniques during the War, together with the increased availability after the War of scientists and engineers trained in those techniques, made possible the birth of radio astronomy as a science.

Dr Bernard Lovell is one of the founding fathers of radio astronomy: as a scientist he learned the basics of science politics during World War II; and after many struggles, he made the University of Manchester a world centre for radio astronomy by establishing at Jodrell Bank in Cheshire the so-called Mark I radio telescope, essentially a steerable dish some 250 feet across designed to collect radio waves. In his book *The Jodrell Bank Telescopes*, Lovell gives a vivid description of his efforts to maintain his research group at the cutting edge of the science, which required that he gain funds for renovating existing radio telescopes as well as for the construction of new instruments.

For Lovell this was a necessary, though often extremely distasteful, quest. At one point he refers to it as "torture", for not only was it essential to gain the support of his colleagues on the scientific excellence of a proposal for a new instrument, but, as Lovell writes, "When these issues become entwined with personal jealousies and ambitions, with economics, and with national and international politics, then the difficulties of making progress become formidable". The easy option is to do nothing, a point which, he argues, pleases the Treasury: from his standpoint, its civil servants too often preferred to sit on their hands.

A related issue is that very few politicians played any sort of role at

P. J. Honey

P. J. Honey is reader in Vietnamese studies at the University of London School of Oriental and African Studies.

Hong Kong

The future of Hong Kong has over the past few years been the subject of much debate and speculation. In a recent Oxford University Press paperback, *Hong Kong: in search of a future* (£5.95), Joseph Y. S. Cheng has collected official documents and semi-official statements which record the development of negotiations between Hong Kong, Britain and China. He also includes some opinion polls and a sample of media views.

created - nationalism, communism and the two great religions, Buddhism and Islam, - all found much to dislike in "Americanism". All the more so because the treatment of the American negro on the one hand and on the other interests in the Pacific - often at the expense of allies - cast doubt on the sincerity of the US commitment to the principles of racial equality and self-determination.

Nor were the Japanese much more successful. Promises of independence after the war were not sufficient to military and economic exploitation. If Japan had won, much of South East Asia would have had to be accepted, with different degrees of Japanese hegemony. As it was, the already helped to set in motion, during the permanent restoration of the pre-war colonial regimes impossible. For the rest, Professor Thorne touches on some of the

between the western allies which were discussed in *Alles of a Kind* but is mainly concerned with the effects on the various societies of such factors as conquest and occupation, the cutting off of markets, the displacement of populations and conscription for both military and industrial purposes. In some cases, too, the stimulus given to the pace of industrialization was an important factor adding to the pace of social change, affecting such diverse elements as the strength of organized labour and the position of women.

This is not an easy book to read. The diverse strands of the author's argument cross and re-cross, making the neat coherence and clarity of his other books less easy to attain. But it is a book that successfully adds a social dimension to Professor Thorne's previous studies of the Far Eastern War.

Kelth Sainsbury

Kelth Sainsbury is a lecturer in

## BOOKS

### Lovell's tenacity

The Jodrell Bank Telescopes  
by Bernard Lovell  
Oxford University Press, £15.00  
ISBN 0 19 558 178 5

In the history of science after World War II in western Europe and the United States, there are two central themes: first, the remarkable growth in government support for the scientific enterprise; and second, the desire of scientists to retain as much authority as possible over the direction of research. Not surprisingly, the politicians and bureaucrats who have dispensed taxpayers' money have also wanted to ensure strong measures of control over their investments. There have thus been tensions, sometimes barely noticeable and on occasion highly charged indeed, between the scientists and their patrons. And one science that has flourished in large part because of the availability of government support has been radio astronomy.

Before the early 1930s astronomers secured almost all of their information from the optical region of the electromagnetic spectrum, but the detection of cosmic radio waves by Karl Jansky in 1930 extended this narrow window on the universe. Although there was little interest initially in these novel observations, the improvements in radar techniques during the War, together with the increased availability after the War of scientists and engineers trained in those techniques, made possible the birth of radio astronomy as a science.

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A related issue is that very few politicians played any sort of role at

## Ada primers

Programming in Ada: a first course  
by Robert G. Clark  
Cambridge University Press,  
£22.50 and £8.95  
ISBN 0 521 25728 X and 27675 6  
The Ada Programming Language:  
a guide for programmers  
(second edition)  
by J. C. Pyle  
Prentice-Hall, £18.95  
ISBN 0 13 003906 3

Many experts have criticized the Ada language for being too big. However, although there is no denying the language is big - say, about six times the size of Pascal - there are many things which are simply handled in Ada which are virtually impossible in Pascal. In designing the language for the United States Department of Defense, the team responsible attempted



This Samuel Coccia illustration from the *Basel Broadsheet* depicts a sighting of strange things in the sky (possibly natural atmospheric events) on August 7, 1566, from *Science and the UFOs* by Jenny Randles and Peter Warrington (Blackwell, £12.50).

## Policy fabric

A Strategic Analysis of Science and Technology Policy  
by Harvey A. Averch  
Johns Hopkins University Press,  
£17.80  
ISBN 0 8018 2467 2

Science policy documents are littered with metaphors from the worlds of agriculture, cooking and textiles. Science is said to be organized into fields which need to be cultivated. Harvests may be reaped only when fields are ripe. The seed corn of basic research must be reserved; it must not be consumed because of short-term expediency. Changing metaphors, the resources for science are a cake awaiting cutting, the slices to be allocated to different subjects. A key issue is how to increase the size of the cake. At the same time, science is a seamless web: damage to one part of the fabric damages the whole, so that one must support all or nothing. And so on. This is the language of advocacy. Although the examples are not his, Averch would recognize them as typical of what, with slight exaggeration, he calls the "poetic" style of science policy-makers.

Averch came to science administration after a professional grounding in the tough school of American policy analysis. The penchant of that school for economic, statistical, systems analysis and operational research styles of analysis, presentations that are structured as lists of formal propositions, and a generally critical attitude to give decision-makers reasonable guarantees that the advice they propose to use has its worst defects removed and will pass certain minimum standards of rigour.

Averch was surprised to find that policy analysis for science and technology in the United States was, and is,

apparently untouched by the canons and "craft rules" which characterize mainstream policy analysis. In contrast to the doing of science, the doing of science and technology policy, he found, was casual, lacked standards for debate, and was characterized by the assembly of an ad hoc set of justifications for the subjects of the day in the hope that at least one of those justifications would "score". This he calls the "kitchen sink" mode of argument, which is at least a fair riposte to the culinary school of science policy metaphors.

Averch argues that the analysis of science and technology policy is complicated by the decentralized nature of the enterprise and by our limited understanding of it. He suggests that we can begin to approach the subject more systematically by focusing on decisions in a few critical areas: resource allocation, technological innovation, science education, information dissemination, and advisory structures. In the event, Averch has little to say about advisory structures, although he does offer an interesting discussion of how decision-makers should judge policy advice. His focus, rather, is on the strategies which recur in the arguments of scientists, science advisory panels and national decision-makers on the other subjects in his list.

Thus, he compares the strategies which the scientific community in the United States has traditionally used to argue for more resources with the strategies used by those who control the resources. He examines the arguments over government support for civilian technology and innovation. He looks at the federal role in science education and contrasts policy for educating scientists and technologists with more general policy for promoting the scientific and technical literacy of citizens at large. He discusses United States policy concerning the dissemination and diffusion of scientific and technical information, both domestically and as an aspect of foreign policy. And he calls for improvements in the design of the policy process, such that economic and budget issues would be built into the initial structure of a policy inquiry and not encountered for the first time when the final positions of contending parties arrive on the decision-maker's desk.

Averch is ambivalent about whether science and technology policy is a more difficult subject for analysis than others: sometimes he argues that it is, but elsewhere he accepts that there are some equally difficult areas of public choice where policy analysis has flourished. What science and technology policy lacks, he suggests, is a cadre of analysis specializing in this area. Hence, it also lacks its own critical tradition, and is too easily swayed by the advocates and their metaphors. In saying this, however, he perhaps undervalues the work done by his own colleagues at the National Science Foundation. Things are changing in Britain too. But his general point about the shortage of people working on this subject seems, to this advocate, to be undeniable.

Phillip Gummert is senior lecturer in the department of science and technology policy at the University of Manchester, and author of "Scientists in Whitehall" (1980).

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valve state. Although Ada was designed for this type of application, it is general enough to cover almost all areas currently handled by high-level languages (like Pascal). Hence, I prefer Clark's approach, of not slanting the text to a particular area of application.

Pyle's book is a disappointment. Although a lot of the errors in the first edition have been corrected, several remain. The book's structure remains unchanged, which gives rise to a large number of forward references. At more than twice the price of Clark's book, it cannot be considered a good buy. For those seeking a book on the whole of Ada, I would recommend John Barnes's *Programming in Ada* (Addison-Wesley, second edition, 1984); for those brave enough to consider using Ada for a first course, I would recommend Clark's book.

Brian Wichmann

Brian Wichmann works at the National Physical Laboratory and was a member of the Ada language design team.

## Software skills

A Practical Handbook for Software Development  
by N. D. Birrell and M. A. Old  
Cambridge University Press, £20.00  
ISBN 0 521 25462 0

Big software projects are frequently big disasters: they are late and hugely above budget; and if they work at all, they do not work very well. Similar statements could be made about big projects in almost any other sphere, and the recent record of software projects is certainly no worse than other projects of similar complexity. Nevertheless, software developers are striving to do better. As a result, the discipline called software engineering has grown rapidly during the past ten years.

The aim of that discipline is to replace the haphazard approach of the bad old days by a comprehensive set of methods, preferably formal ones, that cover all aspects of the building of software, starting when the requirements for the product are first identified and ending perhaps ten years later when, after a long "maintenance" period, the software finally expires. Software engineering methods cover both the management of people working on a project and the technical organization. The resemblance of software engineering to other branches of engineering, however, is generally only superficial, because of the very different nature of the end-product.

This book presents a survey of software engineering methods and examines how they can be used on a practical software project. Written by two practitioners who work for Logica, a company with a generally high technical reputation, it successfully brings together a host of material, taken from many different sources and covering all stages of software development. The organization of the book is excellent: a reader can readily appreciate the position of each software engineering method within the overall software development process, and for any software engineering problem, there is a range of possible solutions, authoritatively presented. There is a good bibliography for tracing further information where needed. And though not an easy read, the book is generally well written and, apart from the typography, well presented.

Given that software engineering is such a young discipline, some of the methods may be speculative, but all are at least worth evaluating. People who write small programs - anything up to 10,000 lines - can achieve success simply by flair: although such people could survive without any of the software engineering techniques presented, they would certainly benefit from reading the book. For larger software projects, however, the problem of managing the complexity soon dwarfs other problems; and, unless the management and staff apply at least some software engineering techniques, their project will surely fail. For such people, the book will be invaluable.

In universities, really big software projects are virtually unknown. Application forms for Science and Engineering Research Council grants do indeed allow for seven figures as the project cost, but any software engineer taking advantage of this would be such a hopeless optimist that he would never succeed at software. However, although this lack of first-hand experience with really large projects is a handicap to most university software engineers, software engineering nevertheless features in most university computer science curricula. This book will be valuable to lecturers and students on such courses.

P. J. Brown

P. J. Brown is professor of computer science at the University of Kent at Canterbury, and chairman of the British Computer Society/Institute of Electrical Engineers conference "Software Engineering 88".

A collection of studies and essays in honour of Louis de Bruijn, Paul Dirac and Eugene Wigner has been edited by A. O. Barut, Alwyn van der Merwe and Jean-Pierre Vigié and published by Cambridge University Press as *Quantum, Space, and Time: the quest continues* at £25.00.

## Loss of good will

The Issue of War: states, societies and the Far Eastern conflict 1941-1945  
by Christopher Thorne  
Hamish Hamilton, £15.00  
ISBN 0 341 0239 1

Professor Thorne is a leading historian and an authority on the Far East in the 20th century whose work, particularly *Alles of a Kind*, is of the quality entitled to be called "definitive". In that book he dealt with the Far Eastern War in the particular context of the American alliance with the British Commonwealth. He has now added to it, and to his subsequent study of racial aspects of the conflict, this further survey of the social impact of the war on the various societies involved - both the active contestants, Japan, China, the US, the UK and India - and those which were the objects and victims of the struggle - Burma, Malaya, Indonesia, Indo-China and Korea.

*The Issue of War* is a book that transcends the boundaries between disciplines, but its central focus is the impact of war on different societies, on the relations between them, whether allies, adversaries or conquerors and conquered, and the ultimate outcomes of the conflict for the states, societies and international subsystem involved. It covers initial reactions to the outbreak of the Far Eastern war, the domestic contexts and tensions of the societies affected, the contest between the Japanese, the colonial masters and the Americans for the friendship and support of the South East Asian peoples, the social changes generated or accelerated by the war and the "mood of change" Asia, as of Europe, in the immediate aftermath.

It is perhaps surprising to recall that the immediate reaction to Pearl Harbour among most of the principal West was relief, mixed, so far as the Japanese were concerned, with surprise. Surprise, because in the long term the could be perceived, even by some of the Japanese leaders themselves, as a very high-risk gamble. Relief predominated, however, for the Japanese themselves, labouring under the economic and military pressures which they felt had become unendurable, there was the sense of breaking out of the trap into which they had been forced. For the British, and particularly Churchill, there was the overwhelming relief that the blow had not fallen on the British possessions alone, and that the United States had been



Cambodia, 1980: a soldier guarding the Bayon Temple at Angkor Thom.

brought perforce to active belligerency. By the same token Roosevelt and been spared the difficult decision as to whether to help Britain militarily in such a case. For the beleaguered Chinese, Pearl Harbour represented the acquisition of powerful allies, where before there had been none.

So far as the peoples of South East Asia itself were concerned, of course, only a small proportion were either interested or informed enough to speculate as to what the consequences of this event might be for them. But this small proportion included nationalist leaders such as Soekarno in Indonesia, Subhas Chandra Bose in India, and Aung Sang in Burma who rejoiced, especially as the Japanese tide rolled forward, that a decisive blow was being dealt to the colonialist structure. And in this they were not wrong. The damage to European prestige and self-confidence inflicted by their ignominious ejection from South East Asia was indeed to be fatal and was matched by a rise in self-confidence and assertiveness on the part of

the colonial peoples. For this was the decisive result of the conflict, which Professor Thorne spells out in two of his chapters. Tracing the competition between the Japanese and the West for the allegiance and good will of the colonial peoples, he points out that neither side in fact succeeded. The colonial powers themselves, occupied with the war in Europe, made only desultory attempts to offer the South East Asian leaders the kind of overtures which might have won them colonial attitudes combined with bringing this about. It was left to the Americans, confident in their superior morality, to make the most persistent propaganda effort; but their appeal to many Asians was fatally compromised by their overt materialism and their ambivalent attitude to race and power.

The Americans, like the Japanese, were confident in the superiority of their way of life, but its appeal was not as self-evident as they assumed. Indeed, the most powerful forces in the new Asia which was being

created - nationalism, communism and the two great religions, Buddhism and Islam, - all found much to dislike in "Americanism". All the more so because the treatment of the American negro on the one hand and on the other interests in the Pacific - often at the expense of allies - cast doubt on the sincerity of the US commitment to the principles of racial equality and self-determination.

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